

Country comes first, Prime Minister tells firemen

The Prime Minister told demonstrating firemen at Neath, West Glamorgan, last night that he sympathized with them, but the country came first. Earlier the Home Secretary had admitted in a message to local authorities that there seemed to be no likelihood that the proposed national strike, starting on Monday, could be averted. Up to 12,000 Servicemen are on standby.

12,000 troops stand by as peace talks fail

By Michael Horsnell
and Donald MacIntyre

Up to 12,000 Servicemen are now standing by to take over from the 48,000 firemen threatening to start a national strike on Monday.

And leaders of the Fire Brigades Union made clear last night that the strike planned would go ahead. Six hours of talks had failed to produce an settlement on their 30 per cent pay claim.

There are no plans for further formal negotiating meetings until Wednesday, two days after the strike is due to begin.

The Home Office, finalizing contingency plans, confirmed yesterday that it had told chief fire officers that no Servicemen would be allowed to enter fire stations or use their equipment, in an attempt to avert exacerbating the industrial dispute.

The Servicemen will man 850 Green Goddess" appliances, which were used in the 1950s as part of the Civil Defence service and which have been kept in Home Office depots ever since.

In London, for example, out 100 of them will be brought into service, compared with the 250 normal appliances usually in use.

Fire stations will be locked in many areas, and Servicemen will be based at strategic points, such as Territorial Army barracks, where special communications equipment will be adequate links with fire stations.

But the main difficulty is the answering of 999 calls in some areas fire control will not normally be able to deal with the situation.

In other cases the Post Office will have to reroute fire calls to Ministry of Defence bases, or to the fire stations.

Difficulties mean that in some cases there could be a half an hour's delay in getting fire engines to the scene, said yesterday.

I still cannot believe that I will not respond when I will not see it until I see it happen."

The firemen's proposed action is a continuation of the 1975 strike in Lincolnshire police.

In a Lincolnshire police called after Mr George Rees, the county's chief fire officer, said telephone firemen are people threatening that if they happened to their party during a strike the fire would happen to the firemen.

The Home Office confirmed that the greatest threat of poor fire coverage was in the large metropolitan areas. In rural areas, where many of the nation's 16,000 part-time firemen are not members of the Fire Brigades Union, many fire stations are expected to be manned to a tolerable level.

The right of firemen to strike was questioned yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Boyes, assistant chief fire officer in West

Yorkshire. Although the men have a genuine grievance, the Home Office should consider that their action may cost them their jobs.

Full-time firemen in Clywd, Wales, will cross picket lines on Monday despite a warning that their action may cost them their jobs.

Mr Raymond Williams, aged 38, of Rhyl, said last night: "We were told the union lads would not ride with us to fires when the dispute is over, and this could cost us our jobs. Now I have been informed that the employers cannot guarantee me my job if I work from Monday."

Britain's largest property insurance company, Sun Alliance, said yesterday: "There are no restrictions in our policies regarding fire brigades, so cover will not be affected by the threatened strike. However, the strike will make the observance of normal policy warranties more important than ever."

"Policyholders are urged to check sprinklers and other fire extinguishing appliances as a matter of urgency."

Government advice: The Government began yesterday to advise local authorities and the fire service on fire prevention at home, in factories, schools and public institutions on "first aid" measures that have to be taken to prevent fires and to deal with fires.

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, welcomed the return to normal work and said the first priority was to restore public confidence in the industry. "It has been said, although I am sure that the determination of the great majority of our customers is to continue to produce and use electricity," he said.

The CEB had calculated that after making a surplus of nearly £13m last year, it would only break even this year. The chances of achieving even that limited target are now considered slight.

Although the power cuts have ended, the work of returning to normal at all power stations is likely to take several weeks, and production schedules have been disrupted.

The men's action has won them travelling allowances of up to £12 a week, but their other demands, for increased shift allowances and concessionary electricity on the lines of the miners' free coal, will not be answered until the employers reply to the annual pay claim next spring.

Mr Benn accused, page 2

Mr Rees, in a message to local authorities, said it seemed unlikely that a national strike would be averted. But the Government was determined to maintain the safety of the community.

"His message admitted that a fully comprehensive substitute cannot be provided for the regular professional fire services" and it emphasized the importance of self-help in those circumstances.

Mr Rees said fire drills should be practised in factories, schools, hospitals and in the home. Fire fighting equipment should be checked, and extra care should be taken to observe local fire instructions.

The Home Secretary's circular added that Servicemen on fire duty would probably be unfamiliar with a locality and with the layout or hazards of any particular building. He appealed to people with local knowledge to help wherever possible.

The Government had a difficult task in deciding how to deploy the fire fighting units that can be provided by Forces, and ministers still had no clear idea yesterday of how many brigades would refuse to join in the industrial action.

Captured terror suspect was sought for Schleyer murder

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Nov 11

The West German Federal Criminal Office said today that one of the terrorist suspects captured after a gunfight in Amsterdam last night was Gard Richard Schneider, aged 28, and not Rolf Clemens Wagner, as had been stated by the Dutch police.

It confirmed that the other was Christoph Wackernagel, aged 26, one of the 16 people wanted for the kidnapping and murder of Dr. Hanns-Martin Schleyer and other crimes.

The office said that Herr Schneider was already known to have links with the terrorists and was suspected of taking part in a bomb attack on a court building in Zweibrücken, Rheinland-Palatinate, on October 31 in protest at the deaths of the three Red Army Faction terrorists in jail.

Eight other people have been arrested in Karlsruhe and Kaiserslautern, Herr

Schneider's home town, in connection with the attack, which caused damage but no injuries. There were no indications that Herr Schneider had been involved in the Schleyer kidnapping. The arrests indicated links between the "hard core" of the terrorists and a little-known group operating in south-west Germany.

The arrests were the first breakthrough in the Europe-wide search for the 16 terrorists. A spokesman for the office said that there were believed to be hiding in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe.

Herr Wackernagel, a former film crew man, is also suspected of taking part in the murder of Siegfried Buback, the federal prosecutor, and Jürgen Ponto, the Dresden Bank chief, earlier this year. He is believed to have taken the photographs which were shown to the Government during the kidnapping as proof that



Gard Richard Schneider (left) and Christoph Wackernagel: Captured after gunfight with police in Amsterdam.

the industrialist was alive. Amsterdam, Nov. 11.—The Dutch, increasingly accustomed to terrorist bloodbaths, were told today that West German

extremists had been hiding for months in a working class suburb of Amsterdam. The two members of the Red Army Group were shot and

seriously wounded last night in a gun battle with police after leaving their refuge, a sixth-floor apartment in the west of the city.

Both were seriously wounded in the shootout with police and Herr Schneider was said tonight to be near death. Three police officers were wounded. During the battle were reported to be in satisfactory condition.—AP and UPI.

Stuttgart, Nov. 11.—The scandal surrounding the prison deaths of the three Red Army Faction leaders widened today when more explosives were found in their cell block.

The public prosecutor's office said that builders carrying out excavation work on the seventh floor of the top-security Stammheim jail found about 140z of explosives and three detonators.

They were hidden behind a wall in a cell which had been occupied by another of the group, Ingrid Schubert, officials said.—Reuter.

Rare stamps from Nazi hoard start dispute

From David Blander
Washington, Nov. 11

As the Second World War drew to a close, Nazi officials who feared destruction of priceless art works and other treasures in Berlin arranged to hide some extremely rare stamps from the Imperial Postal Museum, along with other valuables, in the shaft of a salt mine in Saxony.

Some of the treasures were recovered after the collapse of the Third Reich in 1945, but eight of the stamps could not be traced. They were an orange penny and a blue two-cent stamp dated 1847 from Mauritius; a two-cent magenta dated 1850 and a four-cent blue dated 1856 from British Guiana; a two-cent and a five-cent so-called Hawaiian "missionary" from 1851-52; one 13-cent Hawaiian from 1851-52 and one 15-cent Hawaiian Islands-United States.

The two-piece blue Mauritius and the 13-cent Hawaiian Islands-United States stamp—both on covers—are almost legendary issues.

The eight missing stamps turned up 14 months ago in a trunk in the attic of a retired man in suburban Philadelphia. He tried to sell them at a stamp exhibition and was tentatively offered \$500,000 (\$270,000). Then the would-be buyers became wary.

When informed on September 28 by a customs agent that the stamps were officially listed as stolen from the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin, the man surrendered them to the United States Customs office in Philadelphia.

Now, however, the United States Government finds itself in a quandary regarding the stamps. East Germany claims they because they belonged to a museum situated in what is now East Berlin. West Germany contends that they are the rightful property of the Bonn Government as the legal successor of the Third Reich.

West Germany's postal ministry has offered a reward that could amount to \$50,000 for the recovery of the stamps.

But Mr Martin Appelbaum, a Philadelphia stamp dealer who has examined the stamps, says the ownership question may be further complicated because he has been rumormongered that the stamps might have been illegally confiscated from a private collection in the first place.

A State Department official who has dealt with initial questions from both West and East Germany, says that, venturing claims to the stamps, said it was "going to be an agonizing decision."

The reappearance of the stamps and the international legal problems they have raised were pieced together from interviews with Customs officials, stamp experts, and diplomats.

As related by Mr Robert Laratta, special agent of the United States Customs office in Philadelphia, the man who surrendered them got the idea that he might have something valuable during a private exhibition in Philadelphia in the autumn of 1976.

He saw a notice in a local newspaper that, at the exhibition, two Mauritius stamps were sold for a total of \$380,000, and that re-

Power men's stewards vote to end dispute

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The power workers' unofficial pay revolt, a work-to-rule fizzle out yesterday when the shop stewards' committee voted to reject a strike call and recommended a return to normal working as soon as possible.

No further power cuts are expected.

The end of the 17-day dispute which has cost the industry between £15m and £20m, came at a meeting of the shop stewards' committee in Doncaster, where industrial law was first called over shift pay and other fringe benefits. It was decided to call off the work-to-rule from 10 pm last night.

By last night only two power stations, the 2,000-megawatt Fiddler's Ferry on Merseyside and the atomic plant of Wylfa, on Anglesey, were out of action.

The shop stewards recognized that the men would not heed the militant call for an all-out strike which had been made by Yorkshire shopfellow in

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, welcomed the return to normal work and said the first priority was to restore public confidence in the industry. "It has been said, although I am sure that the determination of the great majority of our customers is to continue to produce and use electricity," he said.

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Mr Benn accused, page 2



Early morning dip for the Prince of Wales at Cottesloe beach, in Perth, yesterday as the last day of his leaving tour.

He hoped the child, his sister, Princess Anne, is expecting will be a girl. Being kissed by several young women on his tour had been a marvellous experience. "I'd rather be kissed than slapped."

Barclays to cut costs by downgrading or merging 600 branches

By Christopher Wilkins

Barclays Bank is planning a radical restructuring of its branch system which is expected to affect as many as 600 branches or about 20 per cent of its total network.

The restructuring will in some cases involve mergers of branches and in others substantial downgrading of the facilities now offered. It will mainly affect branches in the large suburban areas, and some 10,000 of the bank's 55,000 staff will be involved.

The need for big cuts in the branch network has emerged from an internal survey carried out by Barclays over the past year, the results of which have now been circulated to the branches. The survey showed that the bank had more branches than it could justify.

Detail of the restructuring has not yet been settled. Having completed the general survey Barclays has now asked its 35 local directors to do detailed studies in their own areas and to report back by early next year. The changes will then be effected during 1978 although the full programme is likely to take several years.

Mergers are expected where existing branches are close together. In other cases

Barclays will try to cut the cost of running branches by reducing the range of services so as to cater only to personal customers. Corporate business will be moved to other branches and in some instances the bank will make much more extensive use of automated tellers to supply basic banking needs.

The desire to reduce the size of the 3,400-strong branch network has become particularly strong recently as a result of the fall in interest rates which has eaten deeply into the profitability of the branches.

Maintaining an extensive branch network has become increasingly expensive. Some 70 per cent of Barclays' costs are in the form of wages and between 1972 and 1976 the wage bill rose by more than 50 per cent.

But during the present year bank base rates have fallen from 14 to 6 per cent. Loans to prime corporate customers, who pay 1 per cent over base rate for overdrafts, are thus being made at negligible profit.

A further factor depressing branch profitability has been the progressive loss of seven day deposits to the building societies and National Savings as bank deposit rates have become less competitive.

Dr Owen sees 'real chance' for Rhodesia

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

The threat to peace in southern Africa was made clear in the Commons yesterday when Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs that although there were no official estimates, there were 60,000 Rhodesians in Rhodesia and 60,000 in the rest of the country.

With Field Marshal Lord Carter, the Resident Commissioner-designate, watching from the peers gallery, the Foreign Secretary said that reducing their numbers and providing an acceptable defence and security structure for the transitional period in which elections would be held, presented the main stumbling block to a settlement.

He said that an alternative to reaching agreement could be that the Rhodesians might be treated as a belligerent force, marching through the streets of Bulawayo or Salisbury with all that would mean to white and black Rhodesians who wanted a peaceful transition.

Introducing for the twelfth time the annual order renewing Rhodesian sanctions, later agreed by 77 votes to 26, Dr Owen pointed out that failure to renew this legislation would give the Smith regime an unwarranted psychological boost and also confirm suspicions among the nationalists and others about British intentions.

From the Conservative benches, Mr John Davies, the spokesman on foreign affairs, made the usual verbal gestures with talk of "barbaric insurrection" aimed at keeping the peace within his own ranks, while at the same time saying

nothing to indicate that a Tory administration would take a different line from Dr Owen in trying to reach a settlement.

As usual he advised abstention in the division at the end of the debate, not he said, because he approved of sanctions but to avoid giving an impression which might encourage certain people in Rhodesia to delay affairs in the hope that a peace initiative might come.

Dr Owen said that the renewal of his legislation was a British mission to be installed in Salisbury to make preparations for the elections.

But while accepting that the problems were formidable, Dr Owen felt that the chances of achieving majority rule were now greater than they had ever been. There was a real chance that a settlement could be reached in 1978. On the problem of the defence force, the Foreign Secretary said that this should not be based solely on either the present Rhodesian Army or on the liberation forces.

There must be a unified command structure with acceptable elements of the Rhodesian forces going into the Zimbabwe national army. The new force should be based on the liberation forces but with recruitment open to all citizens.

Dr Owen admitted that it might be impossible to achieve this balance, but it was unrealistic to expect the liberation forces to give up arms, agree to a ceasefire and accept that the army should be based on the Rhodesian defence forces.

Parliamentary report, page 3
Ceasefire impasse, page 4
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Security guard killed in IRA car bomb attack

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

A civilian security man was killed yesterday and four people were taken to hospital when a car bomb planted by the Provisional IRA exploded in a crowded shopping street near the centre of Belfast. It was the first car bomb to explode in the city for more than four months.

The device was in a hijacked van which was parked in the local office of a Dublin newspaper, the Irish Independent. It exploded shortly after 3.30 pm as Mr Patrick Shields, aged 32, the security guard from a public house near by, approached the vehicle. Two women and two children were taken to hospital suffering from shock.

Security forces were stoned by a hostile crowd from a neighbouring Roman Catholic district.

At about the same time another bomb exploded at a hardware store elsewhere in the city and traffic congestion was caused when three hijacked vans were parked at strategic points to arouse fears of further bombs.

A confirmed warning of the car bomb had been telephoned to the local Samaritans.

Last night two incendiary bombs ignited in a tobacco factory, but caused little damage. A third device was found before it went off.

A last-minute attempt to persuade firemen in Northern Ireland not to join next week's strike was made by Mr George Cathcart, chairman of the province's fire authority.

In an open letter, Mr Cathcart referred obliquely to the danger that the IRA will take advantage of the strike.

Plea for peace, page 3

Egyptians urged to join Israel in oath of peace

Mr Begin, Israel's Prime Minister, has called on Egyptians to join Israel in a "silent oath" of peace, reminding Egyptians of the two peoples' "common father, Abraham". He quoted the Koran to show, he said, that Allah had sanctified the right of the Jews to their country. "We can help each other," he said Page 4

War powers 'limited'

Britain would not be able to fight a conventional war beyond a certain number of days unless there was change in Nato policy, the Ministry of Defence said. Without that change the result would be nuclear conflict. Page 2

Mr Murray warns CBI

The consequences of seeking unilateral changes in the law on industrial relations might be explosive, the CBI warned. Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the industrial Relations Act, 1971, had imposed local disputes with national significance. Page 2

Spain at all costs

As Spain's airports went on strike for the weekend, British holiday firms swung into action with emergency plans to get their clients there and back by alternative routes. Spaniards fought back too, 55 routes, passengers forcing one jet to leave Madrid. It was just outside the deadline they said. Page 4

Urals disaster evidence

Migratory birds carry in their bones and muscles evidence of a nuclear disaster that occurred in the Soviet Union 20 years ago, according to Dr Medvedev, a dissident Soviet biologist now working in London. He has examined birds from the Urals and found confirmation of his theory that nuclear reactor wastes caused the disaster. Page 5

Decision on secrecy

The Prime Minister is to decide whether secrecy by individuals about code-breaking at the Government Code and Cipher School during the war is to be maintained. There has been confusion since a batch of deciphered messages became available at the Public Record Office at Kew. Page 3

Education: Girls' public school advisers

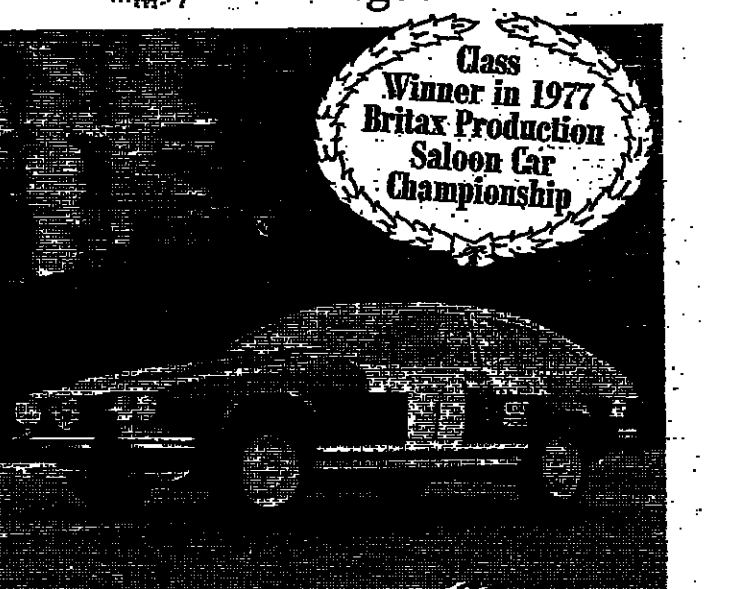
sixth form places. Page 2

SW Africa: Security regulations have been relaxed in Namibia's northern homelands of Orombo, Karango and Eastern Caprivi. Page 4

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HOME NEWS

British capability for conventional war limited unless Nato policy is changed, ministry says

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence said last night that Britain would not be able to fight a conventional war beyond a certain number of days unless there was a change in Nato policy.

Without that change the result would be nuclear conflict and under present policies Britain had no plans to reinforce its conventional military capability.

The admissions were made yesterday, Armistice Day, by the Ministry of Defence in response to criticisms made by the Select Committee on Defence in its report on the Government's policy on expenditure in May. Mr Ian Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on Defence, said last night that it was another demonstration of the fact that the Government's five rounds of defence cuts.

The ministry's reply stated that the Government had accepted that, in the interests of speed and early readiness and given the limits on the availability of resources, some of the perils outlined in the Commons' report could be accepted.

Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, accepted the Commons' committee's report that no plans exist, and none are envisaged, to bring in reinforcement after an unspecified number of days. That is believed to be 10 days after Nato becomes involved in a European conflict. The Commons' report stated that it believes that if other Nato countries were to follow United Kingdom policy there could be a danger, after conventional conflict with no resolution of the political negotiations, that Nato would be left with no further flexibility

of response and might be thrown back on the nuclear option. The Ministry of Defence stated that it is considering improved arrangements for the recall of Army regular reserves, which would significantly reduce the time required to mobilize them.

"Examination of their feasibility and implications would be complete by the end of 1977, with a view to commencing implementation if proved practicable, during 1978", it said.

The ministry stated that the assumption on which all members of the alliance work recognizes the possibility of an attack by the Warsaw Pact after only a short period of warning. That was one of the main factors determining the strength and deployment of the standing forces of the Alliance.

Benn role in power dispute is criticized

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

What he called the refusal of Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, to support the Government's policy on wage restraint in the dispute between the power station workers and the Central Electricity Generating Board was criticized last night by Mr Ian Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on energy.

In a statement made after consultation with Mrs Thatcher, the Opposition leader Mr Gilmour said that Mr Benn's attitude on industrial relations was "a serious and deliberate attempt to undermine the Government's policy on wage restraint".

It has been alleged that he pressed the CEBG to recognize the unofficial shop stewards committee and to pay normal wages to those on strike. Mr Gilmour said: "He has not denied this and we can only assume that it is true."

Mr Gilmour said that that spoke "eloquent volumes" about Mr Benn's views on industrial relations and the future of British society. It had great significance when viewed in connection with Mr Benn's hopes in the Labour Party. That was a reference to Mr Benn's ambition to succeed to the leadership.

"In doing this Mr Benn must have been suggesting what underlines not only the employers' authority but also that of the regional and national officials of the trade unions involved", Mr Gilmour said.

"He must have been aware too that he was asking the elec-

tricity generating industry to overthrow their painfully won bargaining structure. And he must have been aware that such an approach directly challenges all those who are doing their utmost to bring peace and form to our industrial relations maelstrom."

Mr Prior said that Mr Benn had effectively attacked everyone who, trying to draw the lessons of Britain's past failures in industrial relations, was seeking to reduce the extent of conflict in industry and to establish procedures through which grievances and claims could be handled, not least the shop stewards and unions at British Leyland.

"There are two possible interpretations of Mr Benn's position", Mr Prior said. "Either he wanted to undermine the shop stewards' movement at any price, so that he could squeeze some personal political knots out of it, or he actually believes that unofficial strikes and ad hoc militant committees should be supported."

"At his friends tell us that his political actions are not motivated purely by personal advantage, we only have one choice. Mr Benn is saying, through public channels, ignore the elected union leadership and national officials, set aside sensible grievance and claim procedures, never mind efforts to negotiate at company or national level—listen instead to whatever voices (however unrepresentative) emerge on the shop floor. That is the only conclusion we can draw from his reported efforts last week."

Bill empowers GMC to suspend sick doctors

By a Staff Reporter

The General Medical Council will have power under the terms of the Medical Bill, published yesterday, to suspend or attach conditions to the registration of doctors whose mental or physical health makes them unfit to practise without endangering their patients.

The Bill seeks to implement some of the main conditions of a Morrison Committee report, drawn up for the reconstruction of the GMC with a majority for the first time of members elected by registered doctors. Wales will gain its own branch council, but the 1977

agreement with the Republic of Ireland, superseded by EEC medical directives, will end. The present branch council for Ireland will be replaced by one for Northern Ireland only and Irish members from the south will no longer be appointed to the GMC.

The Bill provides for the GMC to set up an "advisory committee" on doctors' health and to provide a further committee, the professional conduct committee and the preliminary proceedings committee, will replace the disciplinary committee and the panel cases committee respectively.

MP's wife held on criminal damage charge

Mrs Jane Litterick, aged 44, the estranged wife of Mr Thomas Litterick, Labour MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, was charged last night with causing criminal damage. She was released and is to appear in court in London today.

The charge came after a fire at the home in Oakwood Road, North Kensington, of Miss Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent of *The Times*. No one was hurt.

Mr Litterick left his wife after a heart attack in April.

Dispute stops 'Scotsman'

The *Scotsman* is not published today because of a work-to-contract by members of the National Union of Journalists. The dispute is over a pay claim.

The management presented the journalists with an ultimatum yesterday to return to normal working or the newspaper would not appear. It says their demands would break the Government's 12-month rule.

Windscale inquiry

On September 30 *The Times* reported from the Windscale inquiry that a copy of the computer programme listing, prepared by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to calculate possible casualties after a nuclear release of a cloud of radioactive material, was made available to the Political Ecology Research Group, and that some of the group's experts were disturbed by what appeared to be fundamental error in the programme. We understand that the Political Ecology Research Group is now satisfied that there was no fundamental error in the programme.

Stricter view of foreign visitors by academy

By Peter Strafford

The British Academy in future will not be prepared automatically to accept such visitors to Britain as Professor Václav Král, head of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute in Prague.

In a statement yesterday the academy noted the publicity that had surrounded Dr Král's visit, and said that the academy had raised "a serious and complex issue which has not arisen in the past". It added: "In the event of a further nomination coming to the academy's notice which may raise this problem, the academy will naturally scrutinize it with special care before reaching a decision."

According to Mr Peter Brown, deputy secretary of the academy, if there is an "overwhelmingly strong" case against some visitor who is proposed in the future, the academy will not be prepared to accept him.

It was the normal practice for one academy to accept anyone nominated by another. But there could be cases where the price and create crises in our foreign relations.

Dr Král left London on Monday at the end of a visit to the British Academy under the terms of an exchange agreement with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The visit attracted criticism because Dr Král had been a big part in the persecution of other Czechoslovak historians who have not followed the official pro-Soviet line.

The British Academy's council discussed the visit on Thursday, with Sir Isaiah Berlin, the president, in the chair. The statement issued yesterday was intended to set out policy for the future.

The purpose of exchange visits, it noted, was "to enable foreign scholars to visit this country and to consult records and libraries and colleagues to make similar visits abroad". It was understood that the sole criterion for the selection of visitors was scholarly standing, and that a scholar's political opinions, whether or not they affected his work, should not influence the choice.

The statement continued: "Relations between the national academies, which comprise the *Académie Française*, the *British Academy*, the *German Academy*, the *Japanese Academy*, the *Netherlands Academy*, the *Polish Academy*, the *Portuguese Academy*, the *Russian Academy*, the *Spanish Academy*, the *Swedish Academy*, the *Swiss Academy*, the *Ukrainian Academy*, the *Yugoslav Academy*, the *Chinese Academy*, the *Indian Academy*, the *Indonesian Academy*, the *Malay Academy*, the *Pakistani Academy*, the *Sri Lankan Academy*, the *Tamil Academy*, the *Thai Academy*, the *Vietnamese Academy*, the *Zimbabwean Academy*, the *Anglophone African Academies*, the *Francophone African Academies*, the *Hispanic American Academies*, the *Portuguese Speaking Academies*, the *Russian Speaking Academies*, the *Slavic Speaking Academies*, the *Ukrainian Speaking Academies*, the *Yugoslav Speaking Academies*, the *Chinese Speaking Academies*, the *Indian Speaking Academies*, the *Indonesian 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HOME NEWS

NCB offers to alter policy over pit pay

By Paul Roush

The National Coal Board is willing to shift from wholly centralized pay bargaining to permit pit productivity deals if leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers agree to the change of policy.

That is the meaning of a vaguely worded conclusion to the board's letter of response rejecting miners' demands for 90 per cent pay rises from November 1 in defiance of the TUC's 12-month rule.

It will reinforce the determination of coalfield moderates who want to circumvent the secret pithead ballot that rejected local incentives last week.

The last paragraph of the board's letter, which was largely unnoticed because attention was focused on the rejection of the miners' claims, said: "We welcome the initiative taken by national officials of the union last week, and share their concern in calling for an increase in coal production in order to secure the future of the industry as envisaged in the Plan for Coal. We would be ready to discuss this."

The area executive of the Lancashire miners voted 10 to two yesterday to seek a scheme on the lines of that rejected in the pithead ballot. News of the move was given to Mr Westwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, when he visited Parkside Colliery, Merseyside.

Lancashire miners' leaders thus join those of moderate areas wanting freedom to negotiate individual schemes. North Wales, South Wales, the Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Northumberland are also seeking local incentives, but the issue is in abeyance until December, when the NUM productivity bargaining committee will report to the national executive on the principle of pit schemes.

The productivity committee is collecting evidence about alleged "underhand" deals at eight pits in Scotland, the Midlands and North Derbyshire, where local incentives are being paid, according to moderate sources.

Mr Benn said at Parkside: "Anyone who thinks that this is a rerun of 1973-74 with Mr Heath has completely misunderstood what is going on."

Peace plea from jail to Ulster terrorists

From a Correspondent

An appeal to Northern Ireland terrorists to lay down their arms and talk their way out of the Maze prison at Long Kesh yesterday.

Augustus ("Gusty") Spence, aged 44, the "commanding officer" of Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners in the special category compounds at the prison, made the appeal in a letter to the prisoners on the day of the 11th anniversary of the death of a young Roman Catholic man, which he described as a folk hero to thousands of loyalists and a figure widely respected among both Protestant and Catholic. His words yesterday, conveyed in a script brought from the jail, are bound to be hotly debated among the paramilitary organizations.

There is a need for reconciliation with our neighbours, whose aspirations differ from ours. Negotiation and dialogue can fill the vacuum of violence. It will take courage and it will mean give and take on both sides, but I am confident that

An ambulance used to help to recreate a First World War field hospital at the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps training centre, Aldershot, yesterday. The demonstration marked the founding 75 years ago of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Talks about secrecy on decoding

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister and the senior ministers are consulting on security and intelligence matters will decide in the next few weeks whether to relax the absolute secrecy enforced on all who were party to most secret information about code-breaking and cipher school in the last war.

Since news of their release appeared in *The Times* last month, individuals engaged in the work have pointed out, in our correspondence columns and elsewhere, that restraints placed on disclosures have not been officially lifted. The documents appearing at the Public Record Office in Kew.

The last statement from the Government on the issue was given in a parliamentary reply by Mr Rogers, then Minister of State for Defence, on December 13, 1974. He told the Commons that the understandings given by men and women engaged in wartime intelligence

under the Official Secrets Act still applied. Anyone wishing to write an account of those years should consult his former department and the "devoted committee".

Mr Callaghan, in reviewing the present position, has begun consultations with the government communications headquarters (the peacetime successor of the government code and cipher school), the secret intelligence service, security services, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Cabinet Office and the Law Officers.

The matter is being treated as an issue of broad policy with legal as well as security implications. It is most unlikely that blanket freedom to disclose will emerge from present discussions. The documents appearing at the Public Record Office are being released in a carefully controlled fashion. They cover decoded messages without any supporting material about the methods used in compiling them or the individuals involved.

Ministers are also likely to take a decision in the next few weeks on whether to publish an official history of wartime secret intelligence at present under preparation in the Cabinet Office by a team of researchers led by Professor F.

H. Hinsley of Cambridge University. Volume one, which covers the period up to the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June, 1941, is already complete.

The second volume will be completed next year. Indications in Whitehall at present are that the study will be published in two parts.

Ministers and intelligence officials are particularly concerned that information about techniques used in wartime code-breaking should not even now be imparted. About 10,000 people were working for the government code and cipher school at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, or in its satellite organizations in the Home Counties by the end of hostilities.

The highly secret technical information of continuing concern to the Government, well known and understood by only a few individuals, many of whom are now dead. Absolute secrecy about Bletchley Park and its work was maintained until the 1970s despite the numbers involved. All were sworn to the strictest secrecy on pain of imprisonment and were instructed to consult their former organizations should any approach be made to them about their wartime work.

University pay anomalies must be rectified

By Diana Geddes

The Government must rectify the "outrageous anomaly" in the pay of university lecturers and professors, Dr Keith Hampson, a backbench Conservative spokesman in the House of Commons, told the Tory Reform Group in Oxford yesterday.

Dr Hampson produced figures to show that between 1970 and 1976 the starting salary for a university lecturer has gone up by 2.7 per cent in real terms, and the salary of a university professor has gone down in real terms by 1.8 per cent.

Taking a comparable profession, that of medicine, Dr Hampson said that during the same six-year period a hospital houseman's pay had gone up by 24 per cent in real terms, and that of a registrar by 17.7 per cent, again in real terms. Miners' pay had increased by 32 per cent.

The Government, decided in 1975 that university teachers were due for a 20 per cent pay increase. But that settlement, which was caught up in the pay policy, and the teachers received only 4 per cent.

Dr Hampson accused the Government of having "ignored and exploited the universities because they have no political voice. It is a pity that a crisis of morale in the universities and a damaging brain drain.

Questioned on Irish Radio about his failure to deliver the prepared anti-IRA speech, Mr O'Kennedy said it had been decided to address the Irish-American audience informally.

Mr O'Kennedy is the politician widely credited with introducing into the party's policy declaration of intent to withdraw from Ulster. But he explained yesterday that he had made clear in many speeches on his American trip, including one to the United Nations, that his government totally rejected violence.

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Peace plea from jail to Ulster terrorists

From a Correspondent

An appeal to Northern Ireland terrorists to lay down their arms and talk their way out of the Maze prison at Long Kesh yesterday.

Augustus ("Gusty") Spence, aged 44, the "commanding officer" of Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners in the special category compounds at the prison, made the appeal in a letter to the prisoners on the day of the 11th anniversary of the death of a young Roman Catholic man, which he described as a folk hero to thousands of loyalists and a figure widely respected among both Protestant and Catholic. His words yesterday, conveyed in a script brought from the jail, are bound to be hotly debated among the paramilitary organizations.

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University pay anomalies must be rectified

By Diana Geddes

The Government must rectify the "outrageous anomaly" in the pay of university lecturers and professors, Dr Keith Hampson, a backbench Conservative spokesman in the House of Commons, told the Tory Reform Group in Oxford yesterday.

Dr Hampson produced figures to show that between 1970 and 1976 the starting salary for a university lecturer has gone up by 2.7 per cent in real terms, and the salary of a university professor has gone down in real terms by 1.8 per cent.

Taking a comparable profession, that of medicine, Dr Hampson said that during the same six-year period a hospital houseman's pay had gone up by 24 per cent in real terms, and that of a registrar by 17.7 per cent, again in real terms. Miners' pay had increased by 32 per cent.

The Government, decided in 1975 that university teachers were due for a 20 per cent pay increase. But that settlement, which was caught up in the pay policy, and the teachers received only 4 per cent.

Dr Hampson accused the Government of having "ignored and exploited the universities because they have no political voice. It is a pity that a crisis of morale in the universities and a damaging brain drain.

Questioned on Irish Radio about his failure to deliver the prepared anti-IRA speech, Mr O'Kennedy said it had been decided to address the Irish-American audience informally.

Mr O'Kennedy is the politician widely credited with introducing into the party's policy declaration of intent to withdraw from Ulster. But he explained yesterday that he had made clear in many speeches on his American trip, including one to the United Nations, that his government totally rejected violence.

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Bequest of 'no smoke' pub declined

By Alan Hamilton

Mr John Shewers, proprietor of the New Inn, Appleton, West Yorkshire, displayed an uncommon streak of generosity while drawing up his will. He decided to leave his popular and profitable public house in the Yorkshire Dales to the Royal National Life-Boat Institution.

After two years' careful consideration, Mr Shewers has decided that it does not want to own a public house, on the reasonable ground that, while it is highly competent at saving lives at sea, its knowledge of the licensed trade is limited. Mr Shewers is deeply disappointed at the loss of his pub.

The publican's desire to leave his inn, situated almost as far from the sea as it is possible to get in the north of England, to the lifeboat service is not entirely illogical. Mr Shewers, who considers himself as being in the business of saving lives, being a fervent anti-smoking campaigner, and having six years ago turned the New Inn into what he has called a "no-smoking public house in the world."

"I have only one ashtray in my hotel, and it has a coffin on it," he said yesterday. He has not smoked since he was a child, but he became an anti-tobacco evangelist when a close friend died of cancer. He says he has a secret anti-smoking recipe, and once cured a Willis tobacco salesman of the habit.

Mr Shewers, who is aged 73 and a bachelor, says he has been offered £50,000 cash for his inn, but will not sell until he dies or finds a buyer he can trust to maintain the no-smoking rule.

Sanctions of the kind which had been applied in Rhodesia in the end damaged those whom the people were supposed to be protecting. The sanctions might have a counter effect to that intended.

When he saw the extraordinary innovation and ingenuity deployed in order to overcome the problems with which they had been faced, Mr Shewers was remarkable. The results were to be seen in the figures for the economy for the period 1967-76, during which time the GDP of that country had doubled.

In the course of the last year and a half, a deep crisis of confidence, deep concern over the future of the country had been the subject of the future of Rhodesia.

The provision of schools, hospitals and other facilities for the black population, had been suffered from the existence of sanctions. The political advance of the people had been substantially slowed.

The sanctions had been counterproductive to the best interests of the black population. Were it not for the sanctions there would have been substantially greater progress socially and politically.

His reason for asking Conservatives not to vote against the Order was because at the present juncture it would be damaging for the Conservative Party to begin to give the impression that it was endorsing the proposals.

Nothing would be more damaging to the future of Rhodesia or to Britain's relations with that country than to procure a general election on the subject of Rhodesia.

It was true that the Government had recently passed the purpose of securing an orderly passage to majority rule by the will of the Rhodesian people.

Some of the pressures we have been able to exercise in this case have been less than we have brought to bear on other cases. Let us have always believed to be the right and necessary purpose of subscribing to the principle of the acceptance of that test.

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PARLIAMENT, November 11, 1977

Foreign Secretary sees chance of Rhodesian problem being resolved in course of next year

House of Commons

There was a real chance that the Rhodesian issue would be resolved during the course of next year, Mr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said when opening a debate on Rhodesia. He moved that the Southern Rhodesia Act (Continuation) Order, which continues the sanctions approved by the House last year, be approved.

Dr Owen said the main reason for renewing the order was to maintain international pressure on the Rhodesians to give up their illegal status.

We must (he said) continue to act together with the international community who have to a reasonable extent accepted the broad framework of the proposals introduced in the White Paper as providing a basis for a peaceful transition to majority rule in Rhodesia.

He would like to introduce the necessary legislation to grant independence to Zimbabwe in two stages.

Both Houses would first be asked to agree to a transitional administration. The order would take the form of a modification of the 1965 constitution and would include the necessary provisions relating to the appointment of a resident commissioner, a legislative and executive power, fundamental human rights, judiciary, public service, and so on.

The necessary powers under the 1965 constitution to hold elections would require a new Act of Parliament.

We would therefore need to include in the same Act that would provide for the holding of an independent election, a Bill for the Council, confirmation of independence and other matters connected with the transition.

The justification for sanctions would fall away once it was clear that the Rhodesians were in a position to hold free elections.

The obstacles ahead were formidable. He did not deny that the Rhodesians were a determined people, and that it was not easy to change their minds.

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WEST EUROPE

Passengers force jet to fly from Madrid

From William Chislett, Madrid, Nov 11

All Spain's 38 airports were at a standstill today when 13,000 ground staff started a projected three-day strike. Tens of thousands of tourists and business people were stranded and arrangements were made to try to get them home by other means.

The strike, which will last until Monday, affects more than 1,000 regular and 500 charter flights a day.

From 8 am the airports bore the air of ghost towns as the strike started over pay. The staff want a minimum take-home pay of the equivalent of £200 a month and the rise of £70 a month backdated to the spring. This is rejected by the Government as it contravenes the 22 per cent wage ceiling agreed between all parties last month.

Along still sunny coastlines, tourists were offered alternative routes home. More than 650 British tourists were due to fly out of Alicante today to Bradford, Newcastle, Luton, Manchester and Glasgow.

Thomson Holidays laid out coaches to take them to Perpignan, in southern France, a 12-hour journey, for flights home. Tourists coming to Spain were also going by way of France and then by bus into Spain. Tourists on the Costa del Sol were taken across the Strait of Gibraltar to Tangiers where they caught flights.

Over the weekend, the 1,000 delegates attending the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association in Madrid will be flown out from a military airbase.

Fifty-five passengers at Madrid's Barajas airport last night took an airliner when Iberia said that the flight to Barcelona due just after midnight would not leave.

Passengers, including two members of the Cortes (Parliament) and the father of a two-year-old boy suffering from leukemia, boarded the aircraft in protest, arguing that the strike was not then in force.

Police tried to evict them, and eventually Iberia agreed that the flight could leave. The two MPs, a socialist and a member of the ruling democratic Centre Union, intended to draw attention to the ease with which they boarded the aircraft.

A DCL flight to London, which could not land at Lisbon because of bad weather, touched down in Madrid shortly after the strike started. Ground staff, claiming the pilot had infringed an international agreement, threatened to block access to the airport if there was a similar incident. The pilot said he landed because he had to.

The Government seems determined not to give in. The signatures are hardly dry on the economic pact agreed with the opposition.

Our Labour Staff writes: British Airways have cancelled all flights to and from Spain until Monday morning and will meet the extra costs falling on the 500 passengers involved.

About 100,000 people were due to go out to Spain during this weekend, the spokesman said. They were being offered the choice of cancellation with full refund, a holiday on the shorter holiday, or a different holiday.

Thomson Holidays cancelled all departures to Madrid or Mallorca for three-day holidays but not for those who had booked holidays of seven nights or more in Mallorca or Tenerife. These people should contact the company this morning, a spokesman said.

Passengers for all other destinations, including Spain, should go to their departure airport at normal time.

Mr David Stafford, operations director of Cosmos Travel, said the public was being fed up with strikes of this sort. Spain relied heavily on tourism and the Spanish Government should do something about it.

He said about 4,000 of their clients were hoping to divert as much traffic as possible to other airports and then provide road transport.

There was better news about cross-Channel ferries when a strike by seamen of Townsend Thoresen, due to start yesterday morning did not occur. The union was against the strike but some men had agreed to an unofficial action from 4 am.

After impromptu dockside talks, the various ships set sail on time.



Vatican visit: Queen Margrethe of Denmark was received by the Pope yesterday and exchanged gifts with him, but her husband Prince Henrik, who converted from Roman Catholicism when he married her, was not present at the short private audience. A former French diplomat who became a Lutheran and assumed Danish citizenship on marriage, he waited outside the Pope's library. Normally people who renounce Roman Catholicism cannot be received by the Pope, but Prince Henrik met him earlier at a public ceremony. Vatican sources said that when Queen Elizabeth was received privately by Pope John XXIII, the Duke of Edinburgh was present.

French mark Armistice Day with solemn commemoration of all war dead

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 11

Armistice Day was celebrated with particular solemnity this year both in Paris and in the provinces. In accordance with the express wish of President Giscard d'Estaing, it has become a kind of French Remembrance Day, the commemoration of the dead of all wars, and not merely of the First World War, as hitherto.

This presidential decision, when it was announced last year, did not go altogether unchallenged. Some ex-servicemen's associations still maintain their demand for separate celebrations of each of the great conflicts in which France was involved, but the public at large seems to like the idea.

Large crowds were on hand this morning along the Champs Elysees for the traditional wreath laying ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe.

Earlier, the President had attended a solemn High Mass at Notre Dame, along with all the members of the Govern-

ment, and other leading officials.

The Mass was disturbed by a group of five young demonstrators claiming to belong to the "Association of French Doctors for the respect of life", who, during the sermon, began to shout "Giscard Assassin". They threw leaflets at members of the Government protesting against the abortion law which they said had already claimed 1,500,000 lives. They were rapidly ejected by security men.

At the Arc de Triomphe, where a huge tricolour flag fluttered over the grave of the Unknown Soldier, the President reviewed detachments of troops from all three services, and in another new departure, walked at a slow pace to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This afternoon, M. Barre, the Prime Minister, laid a wreath in the clearing of Recondes, in the forest of Compiègne, on the monument to Alsace Lorraine, near the railway carriage where the armistice was signed by Marshal Foch and the German representatives.

He laid a wreath on the grave then shook hands with each one of the ex-servicemen's representatives on parade, some of them widowed veterans of the First World War.

He had a word of greeting for each, and as he shook hands with them a band played the "Marseillaise", written during the German occupation of France, this symbolically linked both world wars, and the underground struggle of the Resistance with that of the regular forces, in one and the same official homage.

M. Giscard d'Estaing then decorated with the Legion of Honour 10 veterans of all the conflicts in which France has taken part since 1914.

At 11.15, the time at which the armistice became effective, all the bells of Paris churches rang out as they had done 59 years ago.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Begin calls on Egyptians to join Israelis in peace oath as Lebanon border fight reopens

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 11

Mr Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, today appealed to Egyptians to join Israelis in a silent oath of "no more wars, no more bloodshed and no more threats".

In a statement in English recorded for the Arabic programmes of Israel radio and television beamed to neighbouring countries, the Prime Minister said: "We can help each other. We can make the lives of our nations better, easier, happier."

Mr Begin spoke 48 hours after an offer by President Sadat, of Egypt, to come to Jerusalem to negotiate a settlement.

He said it would be a pleasure to receive President Sadat. Reminding Arabs of their common ancestry, he said the President would be received with the traditional hospitality you and we have inherited from our common father, Abraham.

He also reminded the Egyptians he had offered earlier to go to Cairo to talk peace. His words emphasized that his appeal was not being made out of weakness.

"We stretch out our hand to you," he said. "It is not, as you know, a weak hand." Four Arab attempts to destroy the temple in Jerusalem had been made out of weakness.

Mr Begin described as "tragic and completely unnecessary" the wars which he said started when King Farouk of Egypt invaded Israel in 1948 and the struggle over the newly-restored

freedom and independence. He told the Egyptians that their sacrifices in lives, development and economic and social advancement had been in vain.

"It was we who liberated the country from British rule," he added. Israeli independence had been established for generations.

He closed with a quotation from the Koran which he said, sanctified the Jews' right to the country. "Recall when Moses said to his people: 'O my people, remember the goodness of Allah towards you when he appointed prophets amongst you. . . O my people, enter the Holy Land which Allah hath written down as yours'."

The tense quiet of the Lebanese frontier since the Israeli air attack on Wednesday ended this morning, however. The Israelis reported that 10 Katyusha rockets were fired at intervals of one to two minutes in the direction of the Yotvata village.

Israeli artillery responded after the first shell exploded and the bombardment against the source of the fire was sustained for some time.

Members of the settlement left the fields and orchards and joined the women and children in bomb shelters for an hour and then returned to their work.

Tel Aviv: Israel Air Force aircraft attacked an anti-aircraft missile battery inside southern Lebanon after being fired on during a reconnaissance patrol more than 15 miles inside Lebanon, the military command announced here.

A spokesman said two aircraft were downed on the reconnaissance mission after

rockets were fired at Yotvata. Reuter.

Belmont: Spokesmen for the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said Israel jets had pounded the Palestinian refugee camp at Rashtiyeh, south of Tyre. Preliminary reports had indicated that damage and injuries could be heavy.

Later officials of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the jets had not attacked Rashtiyeh itself, but targeted immediately to the south of the camp. "Our anti-aircraft forces shot down one plane," a spokesman added.

UPI.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, has followed President Carter's latest call for an early Middle East peace conference with an appeal to likely participants not to let procedural difficulties stand in their way.

"It would be a tragedy if remaining differences over procedural matters prevented the opportunity now presented," he told the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Conventions in Dallas last night.

"We believe that there is a chance, the first real chance in some time, that the processes leading towards lasting peace have been set in motion," he said.

Mr Vance, at his news conference here yesterday, Mr Vance avoided apportioning blame for the latest border incidents between Israel and Palestinian guerrillas. The new violence served "urgent notice of the high human stake in the task before us," he said.

North Korea has 100% poll success

From Peter Hazelhurst, Teheran, Nov 11

Without the slightest hint of embarrassment, Pyongyang radio declared this morning that 100 per cent of all registered voters in North Korea had turned out at the polls today to reelect President Kim Il Sung and 579 other unopposed candidates to the Supreme People's Assembly.

The result is likely to be a further series of contacts with Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and African nationalists on how to set up a conference.

The British dilemma is how to persuade both sides concerned in the fighting to sit down together. The Rhodesian nationalist alliance is prepared to discuss military matters, it is understood, and Mr Smith might perhaps be willing, but he will not allow his military commanders to leave Rhodesia while the fighting continues.

That effectively quashes Malawi as a site for joint talks. Mr James Moyo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, stated earlier this week. Although Britain would have preferred a venue well away from the politically overcharged atmosphere of African capitals, it looks as if any meeting of military men will have to be held close to Rhodesia.

Tomorrow Dr Owen will lay two wreaths at the Cenotaph during the Remembrance Sunday ceremony. One will be on behalf of the people of

Owen-Carver talks on ceasefire impasse

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and Field Marshal Lord Carver, Resident Commissioner designate, met again after Dr Owen's Commons statement to discuss their tactics on Rhodesia.

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Rhodesia, in memory of Rhodesia's dead, the other will be for dependent territories.

This has been the custom since Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in 1965, the Foreign Office said yesterday.

Lusaka, Nov 11.—Mr Nkomo announced here today that the Patriotic Front was ready to meet Lord Carver and General Erasmus, the United Nations representative, in Malawi next Tuesday.

But he warned Britain that it should stop discussing the question of a ceasefire, since Rhodesia with "irreconcilable nationalists" such as Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndlovu, would not accept a ceasefire until the armed struggle was over.

He said a firm agreement had been reached for a meeting in Malawi.

He declined to say if the arrangement had been confirmed but said the purpose of such a meeting, if it was held, would be to discuss the mechanism and implementation of a ceasefire and prepare an agreement on other issues to be discussed.

Asked whether the Malawi meeting was merely a "tentative arrangement", Mr Nkomo replied: "No, it was a proper agreement. We have all agreed to the date of November 15."

—Agence France-Press.

Leading article, page 15

Ministers held hostage by farm labourers

From Salvador, Nov 11

About 1,500 people demanding wage increases for farm labourers held two Cabinet ministers and at least 150 other people hostage in El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture building today after taking it over yesterday.

The armed demonstrators demanded that the Government increase the minimum pay for farm workers from \$2.40 (£1.35) a day to \$4.50. Some carried placards demanding free food for farm workers.

Officials said a commission which included four Cabinet ministers met last night to discuss the situation. There was no immediate word on the talks.—AP.

Rococo treasures bought by US

The superb rococo silver service, including a chalice, was bought by the Duke of Kingston and auctioned by Christie's in Geneva on Tuesday for \$12,500.

The Duke of Kingston, who is believed to have been a dealer who bid for the treasures, has confirmed.

Philadelphia man called the Briton and again offered the stamps, the dealer called Mr Laratta and reported the case.

The Customs investigator telephoned the man in Philadelphia and advised him that he was in possession of something officially listed as "stolen". Two hours later the man surrendered the stamps.

The man told Mr Laratta that, as a United States Army captain, he had been stationed in Leipzig after the German surrender in May, 1945. He was in charge of the American military government office overseeing captured German armaments that had been hidden in the salt mines of western Saxony.

Shortly before the Americans moved out of Saxony and Thuringia in June, 1945, so he replaced by Soviet troops under occupation agreements made in London the previous year, he had been ordered to investigate that they feared for their lives if the Russians came to Leipzig. They sought his aid in fleeing.

Continued from page 1

to the exhibition and offered them for sale. A local stamp dealer and an English stamp dealer approached him with an offer of \$50,000.

Mr Apfelbaum, asked in a telephone interview to compare the set of stamps with some other valuable, said: "It is not quite a Hope diamond, but like a Cézanne or a Renoir."

He said his tentative appraisal of the set would put its value at about \$50,000. He expects to examine the stamps with ultraviolet rays to underscore their authenticity. They are in a vault in the Philadelphia Customs House.

Mr Laratta said that in 1976 the tentative buyers consulted lawyers before proceeding with the purchase from the Philadelphia man and that the Englishman learnt from Scotland Yard that the stamps were stolen from the Imperial Museum in Berlin, and were also listed as such with Interpol.

In September, when the

Journalist freed after being held in handcuffs

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires, Nov 11

A senior journalist of the Associated Press news agency in Argentina, Señor Oscar Serrat, was released early today after being abducted and held blindfolded for 18 hours by men claiming to be the police.

Señor Serrat, an Argentinean, said he was repeatedly questioned about his knowledge of left-wing guerrilla activities.

His abduction coincided with the arrival of the new United States Ambassador, who was warmly greeted by the State Department press for Señor Serrat's release.

Another journalist, Señor Jacobo Timmerman, former publisher of the newspaper La Opinión, has been stripped of his civil rights and property by the military junta. He has been detained since April for alleged connexion with the late leader, David Greider, who is believed to have helped finance left-wing guerrillas.

Security regulations eased in Namibia homelands

From Nicholas Ashford, Johannesburg, Nov 11

Mr Justice M. T. Steyn, the South African judge and administrator-General for South-West Africa (Namibia), today relaxed the stringent security regulations in the territory's three northern homelands of Ovambo, Kavanago and Eastern Caprivi.

The decision involved the repeal of the highly controversial emergency legislation known as "Proclamation R17" and its replacement by less severe measures.

Announcing the changes, Mr Justice Steyn said he was giving permission to hold a political meeting in any of the three northern homelands. Previously a permit was needed to hold a gathering of more than five people.

A law providing for indefinite detention has also been scrapped. Now a person may not be detained for more than 48 hours. The judicial power of the tribal courts in the area has been abolished and sentences for contravening these security regulations that remain in existence have been reduced.

and order whenever necessary, he added.

This is the third time in just over a month that Mr Justice Steyn has repealed discriminatory laws and generally unpopular laws. Three weeks ago he scrapped laws against Mau Mau, which contravene the fundamental freedom of movement throughout the territory. A week before that he repealed the Immorality and Mixed Marriages Act.

After today's announcement it had ever necessary to ask permission to hold a political meeting in any of the three northern homelands. Previously a permit was needed to hold a gathering of more than five people.

A law providing for indefinite detention has also been scrapped. Now a person may not be detained for more than 48 hours. The judicial power of the tribal courts in the area has been abolished and sentences for contravening these security regulations that remain in existence have been reduced.

The East German Government saw it and returned its embassy in Washington to file a claim. On November 3 an East German diplomat called at the State Department.

The State Department then notified the West German Embassy that its own claim was being filed. The American official said that the formal claim would have to be filed by both governments before the United States could act. There the matter rests for the moment while the stamps remain in a vault in Mr Laratta's office.

New York Times News Service.

Our Stamps Correspondent writes: The disclosure of the whereabouts of these very rare Mauritius and Hawaii stamps is of special interest to philatelists. Valuing the set under present conditions is almost impossible but should neither of the German governments regain possession, the two Mauritius stamps alone could fetch something above £150,000 on the open market.

Communists shy of La Malfa offer

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Nov 11

Despite a cool welcome from the Communists, Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader, has reiterated his proposal for bringing the Communist Party closer to government responsibility.

Signor La Malfa's initiative is the first to give more substance to a change in the political situation since the system of indirect Communist support of the Government was inaugurated after last year's general election. That system means that a minority Christian Democrat administration owes its parliamentary existence to the abstention of five other parties, of which the Communists are the biggest.

His suggestion now is that, instead of abstaining, the Communists should give more substance to this Government (or a new one), and take more responsibility themselves by voting in favour of its legislation.

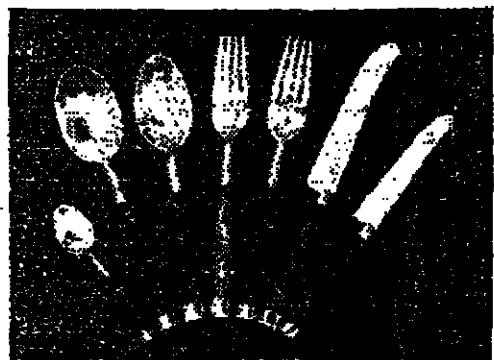
The principal argument, which he has put forward in a series of articles and in private conversation, is that Italy's economic crisis is

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Saturday Review

The complete housekeeper

by Sarah Freeman

Isabella Beeton's avowed reason for writing her *Book of Household Management* was given in the Preface:

What moved me, in the first instance, to attempt a work like this, was the discomfort and suffering I had seen brought upon men and women by household mismanagement. I have always thought that there is no more fruitful source of family discontent than a housewife's badly-cooked dinners and untidy ways. Men are now so well served out of doors—at their clubs, well-ordered taverns, and dining houses, that in order to compete with the attractions of these places, a mistress must be thoroughly conversant with the theory and practice of cookery, as well as perfectly conversant with all the other arts of making and keeping a comfortable home.

It was her inclusion of all the other arts which most obviously distinguished her work from that of her rivals; for in spite of the excellence of Soyer and Acton's cookery books, neither they nor any other recent publication covered domestic management as a whole, whereas she dealt in the greatest detail with both housekeeping and the personal requirements of a lady; and the rapid enlargement of the middle classes and their exaggerated love of domesticity meant that by the middle of the century such instruction was sorely needed. There were countless women whose husbands had made good, who suddenly found themselves pitched into the position of ladies without any idea of how to live up to their new status; and, on the other hand, there was a veritable army of Boarding-school Misses, who were in the same position vis-à-vis housekeeping as Isabella when she got married.



Five sixths of the book was devoted to the cookery section, which consisted of forty chapters of recipes and background information arranged alternately, each group of recipes being preceded by an introductory chapter about the type of food in question and the general principles to be observed in preparing it. Every kind of cookery suitable for an ordinary home was covered, from soup to wine-making. Within this plan, she subdivided the main dinner courses into their basic ingredients, i.e. the kind of meat, poultry, game, and vegetables. This was tidier and much easier for reference than the usual arrangement, whereby all the dishes for each course were lumped together.

It was her system of writing recipes, apparently inspired by Eliza Acton's summaries, which was the most remarkable factor about this part of the book. Previous writers had given only the method of preparation; she appended a list with the months when the dish was seasonable, its cooking time, the number of people it served, and its average cost at the bottom of her instructions and began every recipe by itemizing all the ingredients, with precise weights and measures, so that the cook could check that she had everything she needed in the correct quantities before proceeding. In this way she eliminated any possibility of uncertainty and transformed domestic cookery from a skill which had to be learnt by experience into an accomplishment which could be practised with reasonable chances of success even by complete beginners. The importance of this can scarcely be overestimated, and recipes have been written out in this pattern ever since.

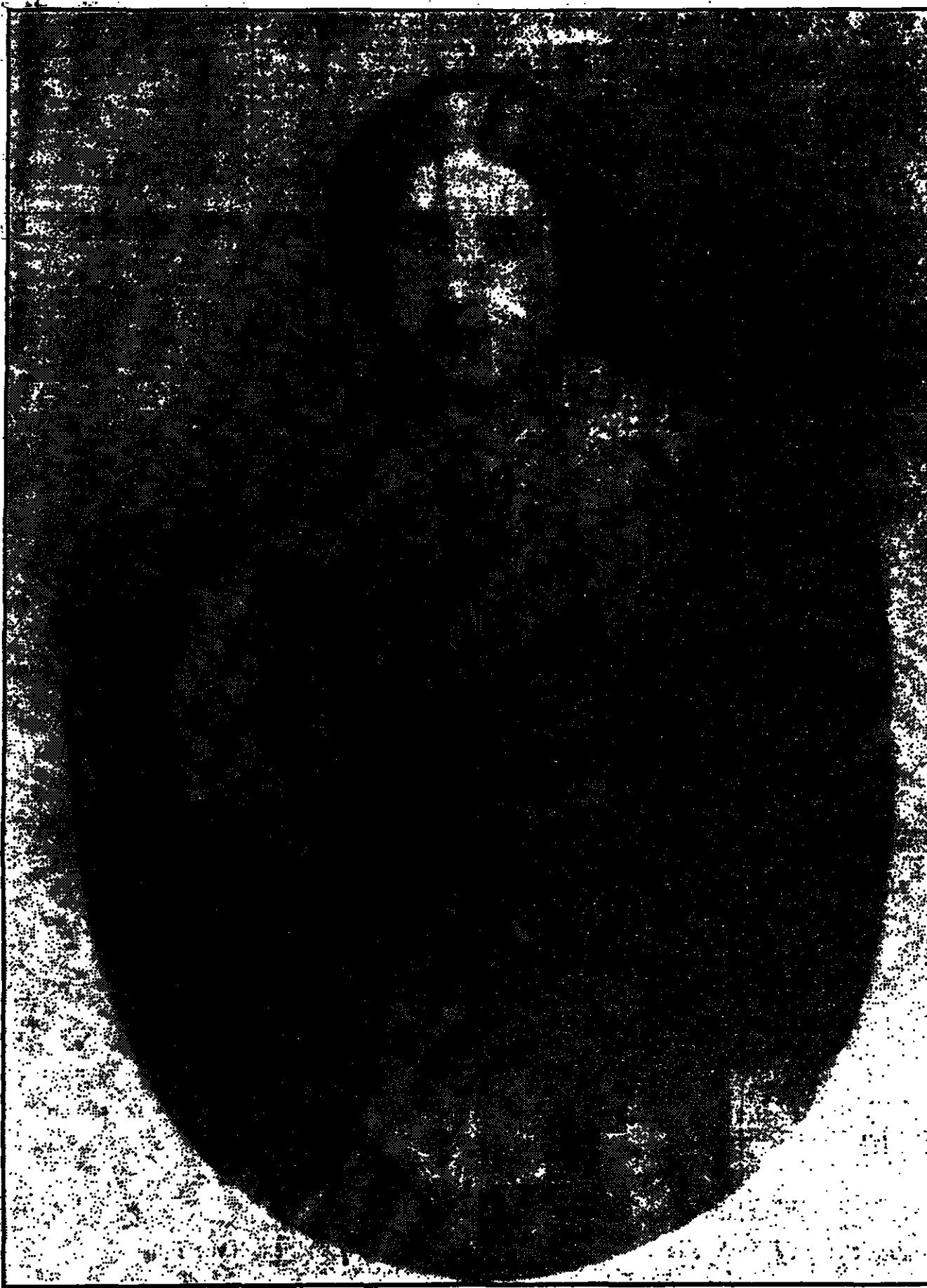
The most notable overall feature about the recipes themselves was that, contrary to general belief, all of them were classically simple. Isabella herself forgot that the people who would use them were untrained, barely educated cooks, and that they included preparations demanding any kind of specialist skill could be simply defeating her purpose. In this respect, her

inexperience was the greatest asset she could have had, for she was able to use her own limitations as a measure; anything she herself could not manage she threw out. Thus she excluded the French dishes described in the *Regenerateur* and *Modern Cook*, which called for several stages of preparation, extravagant sauces, and elaborate garnishes, and included the traditional English roasts and baked and boiled puddings, which required attention but no expertise (and which, on the evidence of her diary, she herself preferred). Virtually the only exacting recipe to be found in the whole of *Management* was Udder's turtle soup, which she included because of its special status as a festive dish. For the rest, though there was plenty of chopping and straining for the maid, there was nothing to tax anyone's ability. And this, rather than any gastronomic superiority, was the reason for the popularity of her recipes; some of them were pretty dull, but even the dullest dish properly made was better than foreign delicacies hopelessly bungled.

The third distinguishing factor about the cookery chapters was, predictably enough, her emphasis on economy. Right at the beginning of the book, directly after her comments on cleanliness, she said: "Frugality and economy are home virtues, without which no household can prosper." She supported this in a variety of ways. Some of her recipes were about as cheap as was consistent with edibility—if soup made of stale crusts or eggless and fatless suet pudding can be so classified. Her family menus were plain in the extreme, and ingeniously devised to use up the previous day's left-overs. Miscellaneous hints on economy were scattered throughout the text wherever relevant; some, such as branding an egg into a separate bowl to prevent a bad one from contaminating other ingredients, have become a traditional part of kitchen lore. Many are still as valid as ever, such as a note about buying meat: "If the housekeeper is not very particular as to the precise joints to cook for dinner, there is oftentimes an opportunity for her to save as much money in her purchase of meat as will pay for the bread to eat with it." This was because the best cuts of meat were always in demand, and butchers were often glad to dispose of the cheaper cuts for whatever they could get. Soyer also deplored the English housewife's tendency to buy expensive joints: "Everybody has the bad habit of running only upon a few which are considered the best, and ten of the prime are in daily use to one of the other, and principally for a want of the knowledge of cookery." Isabella's least worthy notion for making the pennies stretch was her suggestion of serving children suet pudding roasted under the joint before the actual meat, so that they would eat less (a practice frequently resorted to in boarding schools). Most of the food she recommended for children was dreary, partly because of the need for economy in large families, and partly because plain food was considered morally and physically better for them. It is Isabella more than anyone who deserves the blame for the tyranny of nursery rice pudding.



Her most constructive idea for promoting economy, however, was her policy of giving recipes for all kinds of ready-cooked meat, poultry, and fish. The overriding popularity of recipes was that she had gained a very misleading reputation for extravagance. Few cookery books maintain an even gastronomic standard throughout, and even *Household Management*, within the strict limitations Isabella set herself, varied from chapter to chapter. The soup, fish and sauce chapters were among the best and most comprehensive in the book, and indeed for the plain types of dishes have probably never been bettered. There were nearly 200 soups,



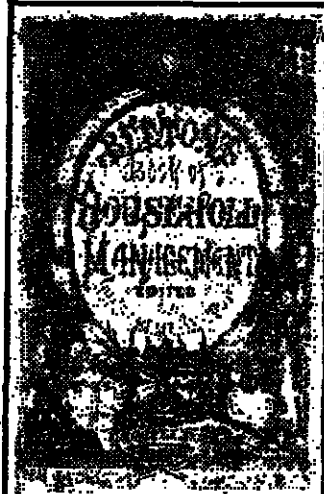
Since almost none of these recipes appeared in other cookery books, it is to be assumed that the magazine readers served her better in this respect than most, and contributed the bulk of them. They were not imaginative by present-day standards, but they were genuinely economic, in that few called for much by way of extras, and to contemporary readers they represented a major culinary breakthrough. But she did not allow herself to be too carried away by her enthusiasm; she was very well aware that on occasion other considerations were bound to prevail, and that luxury, or at least the appearance of it, was of paramount importance to middle-class hostesses anxious to impress. "Economy and frugality may never, however, be allowed to degenerate into parsimony and meanness," she said as a hasty afterthought to her introductory observations on economy. Her principle was that everything should be the best of its kind: if stale crusts were what was required, well and good, and if the specified scale once, it was because they served that particular purpose better than fresh ones; but it would have been parsimonious to use second-best steak for a beef-steak pie, or begrudge the quarter pint of brandy and brandy eggs needed for "An Universal Plum Pudding" (from experiments made with a number of her recipes, it would seem that the usual size of eggs was very small). It is for such recipes as these, and her guest menus, which will be discussed presently, that she has gained a very misleading reputation for extravagance.

Few cookery books maintain an even gastronomic standard throughout, and even *Household Management*, within the strict limitations Isabella set herself, varied from chapter to chapter. The soup, fish and sauce chapters were among the best and most comprehensive in the book, and indeed for the plain types of dishes have probably never been bettered. There were nearly 200 soups,

almost 200 sauces, and 128 fish recipes. Isabella echoed Mrs. English's belief in the importance of the stockpot in her chapter on soup-making: "It is on good stock, or first broth and sauce, that excellence in cookery depends." She did not, however, stress it (as Soyer did) in relation to her sauce recipes, which, remembering that this was the heyday of extravagant and complicated sauces, were particularly distinguished for their simplicity. The fish chapters were notable for the number of eel, lobster, and oyster dishes—which were not an extravagance in those days as lobsters and oysters were relatively cheap: a dozen oysters cost about sevenpence. Nowadays, the meat chapters strike one as unrecognisable because of the large size of joints recommended, which is partly explained by the fact that they were expected to feed a family for several days (hence the excess of cold meat). The preponderance of roasts also makes them look dull.

Roast beef has long been a national dish in England. In most of our patriotic songs it is contrasted with "fricasseed frogs, popularly supposed to be the exclusive diet of Frenchmen." The roast beef of Old England, and the old English roast beef. This national chorus is appealed to whenever a songwriter wishes to account for the valour displayed by Englishmen at sea or on land. The other national passion, port, was reflected by the number of recipes calling for it where we should now use red wine. Garlic was of course consistently omitted, except once, in a chutney. Even Soyer used it only on the sly. "I often introduce onions, eschaloons, or even a little garlic in some of my most delicate dishes, but so well blended with other flavours that I never have a single objection even by those who have a great dislike to it." In contrast to the recipes for meat, the chapter on vegetables

was unexpectedly imaginative, though perhaps not more so than Eliza Acton or Soyer's. According to the latter (again), most people in England are nothing but plain boiled vegetables—surprisingly, under rather than overcooked—and all three writers endeavoured to encourage more variety and care in their preparation.



Isabella included a number of unusual ideas, such as carrots stewed in cream, broad beans with herbs, asparagus pudding, and cooked endive and celery salad. Although vegetables *per se* (as opposed to in soups or as garnishes) were eaten as rarely as meat, they were now, on greater occasions they were served only with the second of two meat courses, and in contrast to present customs, in far less quantity and diversity than the meat; there would seldom be more than one dish of them to accompany as many as six meat dishes. This may have been partly due to snobbery, since except for truffles, and perhaps tomatoes, which had only recently come to be widely used, there was no exotic attached to them; also, they could only be preserved by means of drying, and the choice was therefore limited by the seasons. Besides this, many

dinner parties, mercilessly leaving the gentlemen without the natural partner to their port. The chapter on drinks contained everything that could be made at home, from a version of instant coffee to punch—but neither here nor elsewhere was there so much as a sentence about wine, which Isabella, who was so important as any woman on the subject, did not consider a lady's concern. This was a pity, for if she had looked through the traditional, illogical, and gastronomically very undesirable separation of food from drink, it might not have persisted so rigidly. The invalid food was distinguished chiefly for the sensible comments which preceded it:

For invalids, never make a large quantity of one thing, as they seldom require much at a time; and it is desirable that variety be provided for them. Always have something in readiness: a little beef tea, nicely made and nicely skimmed, a few spoonfuls of jelly, etc. etc. that it may be administered as soon almost as the invalid wishes for it. If obliged to wait a long time, the patient loses the desire to eat, and often turns against the food when brought to him or her.

In sending dishes or preparations up to invalids, let everything look as tempting as possible.

By far the most fascinating of all the recipe chapters was the last, "Bills of Fare," which gave menus for all occasions throughout the year. For every month there was one dinner-party menu for 12, 10, 8, and 6 guests, and two or four menus for six people. There were also a fortnight's worth of family dinners—presumably on the assumption that for the second half of the month the mistress could begin serving the same dishes again. In addition, there were two menus for butlers, the larger being the one also recommended for weddings; one for a game dinner; another for a picnic; and suggestions for the other meals of the day.

The dinner-party menus are astounding for the immense amount of food considered necessary. Modern guests would be disgusted; Isabella herself was distressed by the superfluity. The fare for 18 in May, to take a random example, was as follows. First course: asparagus soup, oxtail soup, salmon with lobster sauce, brill with shrimp sauce, fried sole, and fillet of mackerel. Entrées (light usually delicious dishes served as appetizers to the second course): lamb cutlets with cummer, ragout of veal, curried chicken, and lobster pudding. Second course: saddle of lamb, roasted beef, braised veal, roast veal, roast chicken, and boiled oyster; (no vegetables were specified on this particular menu). Third course: goshawks, ducklings, lobster salad, plovers' eggs (as delicacies, game and shellfish were served as part of the pudding course). Collage puddings, Nesselrode pudding, almond cheesecakes, tarts, Italian cream, Charlotte à la Parisienne, and two sorts of jelly. Dessert: fruit, biscuits, ices, and various sorts of confectionery, including chocolate, which were still very much a luxury. The dessert was the time for the maximum display of magnificent, when all the choicest silver china and glass were brought out; fruit was arranged in huge, stemmed dishes called tazzes, which were often fantastically decorated with flowers, cherubs, nymphs and scenes from classical mythology—though the ones illustrated in the book, which were probably Isabella's own, were relatively plain. The dinner for 12 for that month consisted of proportionately fewer dishes, but was still excessive: two soups plus veal and turbot, seven meat dishes—ducklings, goshawks, and seven puddings; dessert as before.

However, garantuan as these feasts may now seem, to contemporaries they were if anything more moderate than might have been expected, for a large and sumptuous array of dishes at dinner parties was the invariable custom. Isabella, as can be imagined from her aversion to waste and extravagance, as well as from her impatience with the tedious such elaboration entailed, was pained in an embarrassing position: she could not afford to challenge the convention, but was hard pressed to rationalize her supposed of it. She compromised by recommending what she considered the socially acceptable minimum of food, and said, without much conviction:

The variety of dishes which furnish forth a modern dinner table does not necessarily imply anything unwholesome or anything capricious. Food that is not well relished cannot be well digested; and the appetite of the over-worked man of business, or statesman, or of any

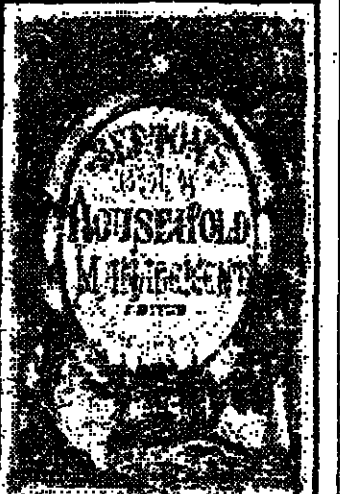
dwellers in towns, whose occupation is exciting and exhausting, is jaded, and requires stimulation.

After all this, the family dinners come as something of a shock. They were economic, unpretentious, not particularly copious, and consisted of the same type and number of dishes as would eat today, except for the rather more generous servings of meat. Sometimes, but not always, they began with fish or soup, followed by one or two meat dishes, potatoes, and nearly every day in summer and three or four times a week in winter, a second vegetable. This was succeeded by suet or milk pudding or a pie, varied every now and again by a vegetable dish, macaroni, shellfish, fennel, or cheese. The Sunday roast was invariable (but there would not be more than one), and its re-appearance on Monday or Tuesday, either cold with mashed potatoes or as a "Cold Meat Cookery" dish, equally inevitable; for the most interesting thing about these menus was the mechanical exactitude with which Isabella manipulated them so as to avoid waste.



The liquor from boiled meat always became soup, and even half-eaten puddings were reserved for use as a cold and frugal meal. The majority of the meals were not unattractive, though they were very fattening; every now and again, however, her urge for economy became distinctly depressing, as in the two meals for January and April respectively: pea soup made from the previous day's boiled beef, cold beef and mashed potatoes (no salad), and butter pudding; and vegetable soup, bread-in-the-hole with slices of mutton, and rhubarb and custard.

From a journalistic point of view, it is virtually impossible to find fault with this part of the book; Isabella's realistic assessment of the average cook's ability, her accent on that most prized Victorian virtue, economy, the precision of her directions, and above all her innovative system of writing recipes came near to genius. It is for cookery that she is remembered and because of it that *Household Management* became famous. But although her work has been so essential, it must be remembered that its distinction was purely journalistic, not gastronomic. If her recipes seemed better than anyone else's, it was because they were easier to follow, and therefore stood a better chance of yielding good results. This is in no way to belittle the excellence or importance of what she did: it was uncalculable, for in effect she formulated an independent school of middle-class British cookery, and in so doing improved enormously the general standard of cooking in the country. It was something no chef imbued with the principles of French haute cuisine could ever have done, and without Kitcheners, one would have said that no man—as opposed to woman—could have achieved it. But Isabella did not invent it; the person who deserves the most credit for that is Miss Acton.



© Sarah Freeman, 1977. This extract is taken from *Isabella and Sam* by Sarah Freeman which has just been published this week by Victor Gollancz at £5.50.

Travel

Holidays on a sliding scale

Val d'Isère: top of the mountains

At year's winter sports, however, were depressingly alike, aside the bumper editions of various years. Most tour companies seemed to be offering the same old packages, with the same old resorts, the same old places, the same old and of appealing, for the time, and the same old resorts in France and Switzerland were dropped.

Kitzbühel: the world's ski school

Kitzbühel is one of the oldest resorts for the relatively new sport of skiing. It was in 1890 that one of its citizens heard of the new sport of running on its which had begun in Norway. His sons were ordered, and he never looked back. By the early 1900s ski training courses were being held and the Austrian army had a ski school in the town.

For many years afterwards Kitzbühel was the haunt of the rich and famous, along with other leading resorts like Gstaad and St. Moritz. All this changed after the 1939-45 war and Kitzbühel set out, as did so many resorts, to catch the growing mass market.

Today the town is well supplied with all the necessities for skiing. Its cable railways and ski lifts take skiers to the best slopes. But what is most interesting today about Kitzbühel is that it has become one

What they forgot is that skiing is addictive. Britons took to the various alps in their customary numbers.

Now this season's brochures are as thick and numerous as formerly. All the great names are back in the books and even more new resorts have been added. For really expert skiers—the type who do their own thing—the resorts are a bit more locked, stylishly, choosing a resort is easy. They simply go for a place with the most difficult and challenging runs they can afford.

For the rest of us from beginners to people who can ski parallel for some of the time on our better days, the brochures can be pretty baffling.

Let me tell you why there was no discussion in my family about where we were skiing this

year. Last season we discovered Val d'Isère, and we do not expect to be going anywhere else for many winters to come.

Quite simply, the skiing at Val d'Isère is superb. The village is over 6,000 ft up in the Savoy region of France, and all the skiing is above the resort. Three very efficient lift stations whisk skiers away to a snowy playground of astounding dimensions. And high up on the slopes the runs and lifts which go to nearly 12,000 ft, with those of neighbouring Tignes. Some of the easiest runs, quite suitable for first-timers, are far up in the sunshine.

We skied energetically for the week without exploring all the runs within our intermediate capacities, and seldom repeated the runs we did ski. The snow was superb, and even in January there were plenty of sunny days.

Experts find plenty to interest them at Val d'Isère, especially those who enjoy skiing powder snow. There are helicopter lifts to virgin powder for the rich, expert and, of course, and there is a full programme of local and international racing events throughout the season.

I cannot vouch personally for the ski school, I chickened out, not because my skiing would not be the better for lessons, but because I hate standing around in classes waiting my turn. A friend who did try it was noncommittal. It was not the best or worst she had tried, and she had some difficulty in finding an instructor who would, as opposed to could, speak English.

Despite its rating as No 1 of the top 25 ski resorts in the world, awarded by this month's issue of *Elle* & *Queen*, Val d'Isère is not swanky in the

conventional sense. There are few Ferraris and wolf fur coats, and no horse-drawn sleighs with bells or hotels of legendary luxe.

There are good hotels, of course, and some excellent ones in the lower price range, but of apartments, catered and self-catering, and quite a few chalets. The shops are a pleasant mixture of real village shops (don't miss the churries filled dairy and its marvellous chocolate) and resort boutiques. Excellent restaurants are easily found, and many offer the specialities of the Savoy region, rich winter dishes of meat, cheese, cream and poultry.

Eating places on the slopes are functional rather than fabulous, and skiers who enjoy French coffee for breakfast should be warned that local coffee is far better in the mountains.

SkiVal, a newcomer to the travel business last season, specialises in this one resort, offering chalet parties, hotel holidays, and catered or self-catering apartments. Prices for chalet holidays with full board start at £175 for 13 days in the low season. For details apply to SkiVal, 30, Salmon Street, London, NW9 8YE. Tel. 01-200 6080.

Most of the major travel companies offer holidays in Val d'Isère. John Morgan Travel, of 25, Albemarle Street, London, W1X 3EB, Tel. 01-492 1911, offer full board chalet holidays from £169 for 13 days in the low season.

Thomson Winter Sports, PO Box 260, Greater London House, London, NW1 7SD, Tel. 01-387 9231, run half-board holiday holidays in Val d'Isère from £257 for 13 days.

Shona Crawford Poole



Skiers at the top of the Hahnenkamm, Kitzbühel.

Margaret Allen

Collecting

The Highland gathering

Donald Wintersgill is the much respected antiquarian and salaried correspondent of *The Guardian*. He is a foraging journalist who produces frequent reports, but also has a wide knowledge of antiquities and an impressive collection of his own. I am not sure his talents are fully appreciated at *The Guardian*, as he works behind a door labelled "Syndication". This means that most of his time is spent in selling other people's articles rather than writing his own.

Wintersgill is a Scot, born in Glasgow, educated at Kelvinside Academy and Glasgow University, and his second book, just published, is on *Scottish Antiques* (Johnston & Burns, £7.25). There have been books on individual points of antiquarian science, instruments, B&I and Adamson photographs—but no general conspectus of Scottish bygone. One advantage of such a study is that it enables us to decide whether there is any distinctively Scottish trait which runs through all the antiques.

The most obvious common denominator is a certain practicality and slumming of fancy work. (As Mr Wintersgill writes: "Scotland did not have much to do with the properties of the rococo style nor the artificiality of 'chinoiserie', a craze for the pseudo-Chinese.") But there is more to it than that. The Scots seem to me to have much in common with the Japanese in their weird combination of utter delicacy with utter barbarity. Both have had a feudal martial code, represented in Japan by the samurai, by *hara-kiri* and

hamesse pilots, and in Scotland by the clan chiefs, the heretics of Clutha or Fair Maiden Lilliar, heroine of a Scottish/English battle at Ancrum, near Falkirk (Martin Haldane, of Edinburgh, drew my attention to these lines which are on her monument: Fair Maiden Lilliar has under this stone, her muckle is her fame; Upon the English loins she laid many many a tangle And when her legs were cut off She fought upon her stumps).

Both Scots and Japanese have shown an exquisite artistic refinement, represented by Bokusei and Uemura in Japan, and by Rennie Mackintosh in Scotland. The more one thinks about it, the more the parallels multiply. The formalism about swords and "sword furniture", and the marvellous craftsmanship lavished on them in both countries; the fuss made about the New Year; the fanatic cleanliness denoted by tartans and mon respectably; the devotion to lacquered boxes that dangles from the sash. It begins to seem significant that rehouses (Mrs Cranston's Glasgow rehouses) were a main vehicle for the Japanese-inspired Nouveau style; or that a book on Hill and Adamson's photographs was titled *Snippets*. The two countries have more in common: something of an inferiority complex about their

dominant near neighbours—England and China. In both cases this feeling has led to a defiant break-away from the tradition of the dominant culture. "Forgive me, but I am a Scot," says Wintersgill, "and I have a personal dislike of the sartorial rejection of Mr Roger Smith, the dealer in Chinese ceramics, when shown one of those warped, eccentrically shaped Japanese wankers; but I am a Scot and I am a Scot." Just as the Japanese breach with the time-honoured conservatism of Chinese painting was deliberate.

The Japanese are getting over their inferiority complex about China, to the extent of collecting Chinese antiques in a big way—but it is still the supreme insult to a Japanese connoisseur to suggest that the artefacts of his land are merely an inept pastiche of the Chinese.

The Scots were less uncompromising than the Japanese in their resistance to influence from the dominant culture. As in the case of the Japanese, in which United States movies replace traditional dance forms as entertainment, the folk art of Scotland and most of the antiques in this book qualify as folk art—was abandoned as Scots looked south.

John Hume, who was captured by the Highlanders at the Battle of Falkirk (1746), wrote in his history of the *Rebellion* in the year 1744 that the Highlanders "always appeared like warriors; as if their arms had been limbs" but by the early nineteenth century the dirk had become a mere "accessory" to the

dress. Mr Wintersgill gives us an example of the atrophy and disavowal of the dirk. An inscription to I. L. Pritchard, Esq., of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, from his friends, the *Edinburgh Review*, dated 1838, reads: "The friends of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, have the pleasure to inform you that they have the honour to present you with a dirk, as a mark of their affection and esteem." The dirk, the dealer in Chinese ceramics, when shown one of those warped, eccentrically shaped Japanese wankers; but I am a Scot and I am a Scot.

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birth as we of Homer's? For these, interested, Mapellers (Stanley Gibbons) antique shop, 37 Southampton Street, WC2E 7JH, issue a free pamphlet on "Scottish Antiques". But the "Antiques" Mr Wintersgill has set himself, as he covers, he covers with thoroughness and clarity. He starts from first principles in each case, and assumes that the collector is a beginner. Thus, in the case of coins he helpfully explains the quality grading system used by coin collectors in general.

At the beginning of the pottery and porcelain section, he explains the difference between pottery and porcelain in the most basic way. Incidentally, that section contains some of the most delightful pieces that can be considered "Scottish Antiques".

Neither does he cover Paisley shawls (the mungo pattern from Kashmir) or tartans, which would have involved the complex but fascinating story of how the Sobieski Stuart brothers, in the mid-eighteenth century, falsified the history and categories of tartans.

And there is nothing on the great Scottish map-maker Ogilby, the first master of strip road maps that showed one how to get from one place to another by the best route. Of him, Aubrey wrote in his *Brief Lives*: "Mr John Ogilby would not tell where in Scotland he was born. He said he was a Scot, and that was all he would say for the place of his

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The migrations of chefs—reviewed in a recent article in this series—are simply achieved compared with the migrations of whole restaurants or their *équipes*. As many people have learnt to their cost, it can be as hard to move a restaurant—even if no more than 50 yards—as it is to transplant a fruit tree in a day season. Not only is the stove the wrong size, the ventilation unexpectedly poor or the parking impossible. But, most fickle element in the equation, the clientele, have to be persuaded that the new regime is identical with the old, or radically different from the old.

But moves still take place, for leases fall in and people come back to catering after selling up and taking a long holiday, and quite often they succeed. Christopher Wickens and John Mahon, for instance, think their restaurant near Cheltenham Rugby Club, Food for Thought, is there to stay. 18 months after they moved from their first venture, about 30 miles away in Herefordshire, they have returned. "Compromises have to be made, but with bureaucracy and bank managers rather than our clientele." That is confirmed by the remark made to one visitor as he probed his lemon pie with almonds: "Do you like it—we're trying it out?" They have set menus, frequent changes, and imaginative recipes—none of them inflexible formulas unless the cooking is good, but plenty of people seem to like their chicken liver pâté with walnut dressing, their lamb with spring onion, lamb with red peppers and a cheese topping, venison casserole with prunes and swede, and mulberry cheesecake (why have the English virtually forgotten this once-honoured fruit?).

Wines are good and fairly priced, too. Lately Mr Wickens's thoughts are said to have turned to importing his own, and Cheltenham provides a market where he could sell them from a stall. He has at least, abandoned his "barbaric chemical concoctions" for more carefully selected, varying "proprietary" choices, and may he sell many of these before the Ch. Lauro '66 and '69 which make a sure premature appearance on his list.

Just as there are a few people who seem to love moving house, which most of us abhor, so there are a few people who apparently find nothing of shifting restaurants. Bryan Chaffer and Christopher Giff originally had a place called Christopher's in Brighton, moved it to Chichester, and later settled on a white Moorabaker in Alfriston. Now they have taken over Trumps in Lewes, which was itself in the *Good Food Guide* under its previous owner, Gerald Parkinson. Apart from painting the walls poppy-red, as a background to pictures and Mr Chaffer's tapestries, the newcomers are not stressing the change, no doubt in the hope of bringing on to some of Mr Parkinson's clients as well as their own.

That is as may be. So far, one or two visitors have found Mr Chaffer's cooking in the new place fallible—with duck for instance—and not all sauces have the flour cooked out. But he comes in to his own as a master of ice-cream, especially the blackcurrant one, and there is even a report of a correctly made peach Melba, which may be unique to the Cinque Ports, if not to all Sussex.

The next two places belong to much-respected catering families who have come back into the business after a year or two away. The Arnesens, who for years ran the Grange Hotel, half-way between the Cotswolds and the New Forest, to general acclaim, have reappeared at the quieter northern fringe of the Lakes ("see *Warwickshire*, Book 5," they say, as a coincidence) as a Pottery & Porcelain. But Parkend, Caldbeck, is not an hotel, as the Grange was, but a seventeenth-century farmhouse restaurant, where their daughter Joyce can practise, along with family recipes, ideas collected from other places where she has worked. She serves the mushroom soup with hot rolls, ham with apricot, sauce, salmon and

(crisp Webb's lettuce with real mayonnaise as well as pockets of meat, fish and egg mixtures) and for sweet perhaps a Cumberland rum nicker or a fragrant blackcurrant leaf sorbet.

An equally welcome return—especially as an example to other restaurateurs of how little it is possible to charge for a decent meal—is Richard and Isabel Speight's Fernie Lodge at Epswam, 50 miles away from their old place at Armitage, in Staffordshire. We could not believe the bill, "discovering earlier this year at lunchtime (dinner is dearer) that about £4 a head bought pâté of duck, of crab and smoked salmon, fillet of pork with apple cream, and calvados—and you could really taste all three—a proper apple coffee, and a share of a bottle of Soave."

Less certain transplants, still perhaps, are of a restaurant-immunologist to move them over the first three months, include the decorous Georgian Hall Hotel, at Coatham Mundeville in Co Durham, to which those reformed schoolteachers Ernest Williamson and Janice Crocker have moved after selling their place in London. Perhaps it is unfair to call attention to them before their rooms are open, or to report that in early days, accounts of "delicious" master chef's meals at £2 supplement on the fixed meal price, pork with perfect gooseberry sauce and crisp crackling, and "a light fluff of peaches and raspberries" are offset by reports of bland game pâté, and tinsy cake reminiscent of a failed Yorkshire pudding.

Trevor Pharoah (who cooks) and his partner Roger Clarke have had a year to settle into their new place, Pharoah and Clarke's in Marlborough since leaving Thompson's at Hungerford, but since they are open for lunch and dinner seven days a week it is no wonder that a test meal found their quiche undercooked and their vegetables no better than fair. But much more than any other liver campagnard with braised onions in a two-course set lunch, and tournedos, Cecilia à la carte made a good impression, and the lemon cheesecake was one of the best versions of this deceptively easy and saleable sweet. Arkells, who supply the wine, are better at beer.

Food for Thought, 10 Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Tel. Cheltenham 29636. Closed lunch; Sunday. Must book. Meals, 7-10 A la carte meal with wine about £8.20.

Trumps, 19-20 Station Street, East Sussex. Tel. Lewes 3906. Closed lunch; Sunday. Monday. Must book. Meals, 7-10 A la carte meal with wine about £8.20.

Parkend Restaurant, Parkend, Caldbeck, Wigan, Cumbria. Tel. Caldbeck 42. Closed Monday; from 5 May to 1 March (closed 27 Dec to 9 Feb) open only for Thursday, Friday and Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch. Must book. Dinner, meals, £22.75. Table d'hôte, £4.50. A la carte lunch with wine about £3.10. A la carte dinner, with wine about £4.95.

Fernie Lodge, Epswam, Wiltshire, near Luttermouth, Leicestershire. Tel. Market Harborough 280551. Closed Sunday; Monday; Saturday lunch. Must book. Meals, 12-1.30, 7-9.15. Table d'hôte lunch £2.50. Table d'hôte dinner with wine about £6.

Hall Garth Country House Hotel and Restaurant, Coatham Mundeville, near Darlington, Co Durham. Tel. Aycliffe 2818. Closed Sunday. Must book. Dinner, meals, 12-1.30, 7-9.15. Table d'hôte lunch £3.75 and £5.25.

Pharoah and Clarke's, 4-4a The Parade, Wigan, Wiltshire, near Luttermouth, Leicestershire. Tel. Market Harborough 280551. Closed Sunday; Monday; Saturday lunch. Must book. Meals, 12-1.30, 7-9.15. Table d'hôte lunch £3.75 and £5.25.

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Gardening

Sticking up for delphiniums

So you might be interested in becoming a member of the Delphinium Society. It costs only £1 a year and you get a splendid year book and other benefits. If you wish to join write to Mr C. R. Edwards, c/o Long Grove, Seer Green, Bucks HP9 2YN.

Now as far as modern delphiniums are concerned I would only wish to point out that many of us are turning to the shorter varieties, those that grow to only about 4 or 4½ feet high and which need very little support. Greatly as I admire those stately spikes 6 to 8 feet high, I grudge paying for the tall bamboo canes and I grudge the time spent tying the plants up. A few twigsy pea sticks pushed in around the dwarf varieties will keep them up and this, I think, takes only a few minutes. Plants of both tall and short delphiniums may be obtained from T. Carle Ltd, Twyford, Berks; Blackmore & Langdon Ltd, Pensford Nursery, Nr Bristol; and Breckingsham Gardens, Diss, Norfolk, who issue catalogues.

The seedmen too have been occupying themselves with dwarf varieties of delphiniums, and Dobies offered last year their 'Stand Up' strain of dark and light blue shades. This

strain produces substantial spikes and normally does not need support. Of course, one always has to qualify any suggestions that plants need no support by saying "unless they are in a very exposed position or in shade". These dwarf delphiniums are of the *D. elatum* type, not to be confused with the "Belladonna" varieties which make more graceful plants with branched flower stems much esteemed by the flower arrangers. These varieties grow to about 3½ to 5 feet and usually need some support—twigsy pea sticks usually are sufficient to keep the plants upright.

Recently some of us were chatting together about delphiniums and I mentioned the "Belladonna" varieties. We agreed that they were splendid garden plants, virtually free from pests and diseases and very useful as cut flowers even if the individual blooms only last a day. If you can be bothered to pick off the faded flowers each day, there are always other buds on a stem to open and thus keep a display going for a week or more. The plants grow lustily and their lush foliage smothers the weeds. If there is a drawback to delphiniums it is that after about three years they have made huge plants which need lifting and dividing. They are

robust, undemanding and long-lived plants. This led the talk on to other long-lived perennial flowers that need little or no attention. At the head of our list came the old-fashioned poppy, *Papaver rhoeas*, in many varieties, red, salmon pink or white. This poppy will live for 30 years, or more for all I know. It tends to be a bit untidy in the border, if it is allowed to flop about after flowering. But one can always prop it up with short grass sticks and if you wish to tidy the plants up by cutting the stems down after flowering, they do not seem to mind.

The buds pushing up two or three inches above the ground, of our Christmas roses, remind me that this is another good tempered long-lived, undemanding herbaceous plant. The true Christmas rose, *Helleborus viridis*, is a most variable plant. There are very few strains around nowadays that can be counted upon to flower before Christmas.

My wife, Frances, told me she once saw a large nursery full of *Helleborus viridis* in bloom before Christmas in Sweden, but as she was in a train she was not able to locate it and communicate with the owner. My few plants certainly flowered for Christmas at Hurremore and

one set seeds from which I raised a goodly batch of seedlings. Unfortunately one particularly stupid gardener allowed the seedlings to die of neglect when I was away on holiday.

The Lenten roses or forms of *Helleborus orientalis* which flower from February onwards are certainly very charming; fuddled at Enfield, Frances tells me they often bloom at Christmas or in January. They may produce pink, purple, crimson, yellow, green or white flowers.

The green or yellowish green flowered species *H. viridis*, *H. argenteus*, *H. coruscus* and *H. fortis* are greatly esteemed by flower arrangers. Personally I am not much moved by green flowers in the garden. We have so many shades of green foliage. I feel we do not need green flowers. There are bellflowers, however, which make excellent weed smothering ground cover plants. Let me hasten to add that in the hands of a superb floral artist like Sheila Macqueen, green flowers and foliage can make a most exciting arrangement. She very kindly arranged the flowers for our wedding reception in July and one large green arrangement was a sheer delight and greatly admired.

Roy Hay

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Ends and means are considered. Politics have to be justified in terms of the missionary, the future of ourselves as human beings, trying to produce a world in which we want to live."

His intimate work with light, providing an image of the universe, project "a vision of unity unencumbered by our present calamities".

Roger Berthoud

David Spanier

Is among us

However much they may have been induced by propaganda to oppose or ineptitude. Until the causes are removed or resolved, we shall have further discord and disorder. And that is what our adversaries are hoping for: the political adversaries on either side, the nihilists, the nihilists who have no sense of the value of anything which they wish to overthrow, who reject every principle and any dislocation.

As a nation with an old, a liberalist tradition we have become too indulgent, too generous, too free-wheeling. We have allowed the wreckers to prosper, virtually every institution in the country must be reorganised, perhaps, the schools and universities. Even some of the philanthropic and educational societies that set out in the past have not.

Numerically, the subscribers (for that is what they are) form only a proportion of the population. They have no affinity with the majority—the great majority. Hence, to be effective, they are least on dividing.

That is the one source of encouragement in an otherwise melancholy development.

□ Like their predecessors, Mr Macmillan, Lord Home and Mr Heath, Mrs Thatcher was present at the annual service of thanksgiving for Lord Ashurst's death, only one instance: the young (and very rich) Mr Aidan McAlpine, a member of the celebrated family of builders and an important collector and patron of modern art, paintings and sculpture alike.

Mrs Thatcher will need to find a partner for him before long. It will not be easy to do so. This is a delicate role of much influence.

By coincidence, Mr McAlpine—who is able to combine real independence with strong loyalty. Quite a tall order.

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THE LINE HOLDS ON PAY

When the Government failed to get formal agreement from the trade union movement to a Stage Three for its incomes policy, the dominant fear was that there would be an immediate wage explosion. We are now well into the last half of the calendar year without that fear having turned into a reality. Given the depressed state of the economy and the continuing tightness of fiscal and monetary policy, a reasonable case can be made for the proposition that the fears were exaggerated. Be that as it may, the events of the past week have shown that the return towards freer collective bargaining is still subject to discipline.

The collapse of the Government's unofficial action, the firm stand which the Government is continuing to take in the case of the firm's wage claim and the settlement of the police pay claim within the guidelines are all indications that there is no intention of letting the public sector start the process of leapfrogging wages. The astonishing result of the Opinion Research Centre's poll which indicated that 88 per cent of the public support the Government's strong line on wage restraint, shows that the policy is popular. As always the National Union of Mineworkers is the one rogue elephant though by rejecting an offer, including a productivity agree-

ment which many will be forgiven for thinking fell outside the terms of the Government's guidelines, the miners have for the moment at least not broken the line.

If the firm's strike call were at all effective, it seems inevitable that whatever makeshift measures the Government may take, with the Services and other resources, there would soon be a major tragedy. In such circumstances it is by no means certain how public opinion would react. There might be increased pressure on the firm to reach a settlement within the guidelines. On the other hand, since a firm's general ability to attract a large degree of public admiration, the reaction might be against the Government. Certainly there would be strong pressure on both sides to reach a quick settlement. Power cuts may be a major inconvenience, but they can be endured. The direct threat to life involved in the withdrawal of the fire service is another matter.

The strong public support for holding the line on incomes is based mainly on the experience of the wage explosion of 1974-75. There is a livelier perception of the fact that unjustified wage and salary increases, which lead to accelerating inflation and increasing unemployment, are entirely self-defeating. Even the Government, however, must be surprised by the extent of the

present feeling that the sacrifice of the past two years should not now be thrown away by high wage increases.

This feeling is supported by three elements of the present economic situation. The first is that the rate of increase in prices is evidently slowing. This element will strengthen at least for the next six months. It is entirely possible that price rises in the first half of 1978 will be down to the 7-8 per cent level at an annual rate. People can see this development in their daily lives. It must be affecting their willingness to support the underlying incomes policy.

The second element is that the impact of taxation has been reduced, together with items like mortgage payments, which form such a high proportion of so many people's expenditure. And the third is that unemployment is high and unlikely to start dropping substantially until the end of next year, or 1979. Together these elements have clearly increased the willingness of the public to accept the lessons of the last wage explosion. It is more doubtful if that willingness would have been so strong, for example, if the rate of inflation were visibly accelerating, or if the burden of taxation were being increased. The Government's hope must be that by the end of the present pay round a habit of wage restraint will have formed.

NO CEASEFIRE IN SIGHT

Dr Owen's report to Parliament on the results so far of Lord Carver's mission was not encouraging. This will surprise nobody who studied reports of the reception accorded Lord Carver and General Chabed by the principals and parties to the settlement proposed in the White Paper. All the gaps between their respective positions which were known before Lord Carver left still gape as wide as ever. Some new difficulties seem to have arisen—among these are the Patriotic Front's rejection of the large administrative powers given Lord Carver in the transition period, and the apparent objection of President Kaunda to holding elections during that period under Lord Carver's and United Nations supervision.

The key requirement of the White Paper that during the transition a start be made in creating a Zimbabwe army out of elements from both the existing security forces and the guerrillas seems unfulfillable. Even Dr Owen admitted the difficulty. Neither the Smith regime nor the guerrilla leaders seem within miles of a compromise, each bidding for the other to make the whites in fear of their

lives, and the guerrillas because they regard themselves as the true leaders of all Rhodesian blacks and because power grows from the muzzle of the gun. Lord Carver has made no visible progress towards their meeting to discuss either this combined army or the precedent cease fire.

Dr Owen anticipates that Lord Carver will return to try again. If the leaders cannot meet in Malawi perhaps they can on Victoria Falls bridge. But for a meeting to achieve anything constructive, some basis of agreement seems essential. The Rhodesians still demand to know what the post-transition constitution is: to be before they relinquish control of their forces to Lord Carver's unified command. The Patriotic Front and their backers still talk of disbanding the Smith army and taking charge, which is almost as unacceptable to Bishop Muzorewa as to the whites.

No doubt Dr Owen is right to express hope and pursue the Anglo-American plan, which has United Nations approval, so long as there is any chance of agreement. But talks of more pressure on South Africa to put more pressure on Mr Smith is unconvincing in the atmosphere

created by the Security Council's action. And the only means of putting pressure on the Front is through the black Presidents, who have not visibly moderated its intransigent demands so far.

The pursuit of counsels of perfection should not be projected in the post which the possibility of an interim settlement, following a one-man-one-vote election in Rhodesia, is nullified. Though second best, and even so difficult to get, it has seemed the likelier possibility, and indeed the White Paper might prove its chrysalis. A bargain under which political power passed to the Bishop and his party under majority rule in return for security guaranteed by maintaining most of the existing forces (60 per cent black) is still a settlement promising peace. Dr Owen fears it might produce civil war. But there already is civil war. A black government, even if repudiated by a minority in arms (which has happened before) is still preferable to a white minority regime, universally opposed but still undefeated in the field. The White Paper seeks to transcend these alternatives but it may yet leave the parties faced with them.

ANTIQUITIES ON THE MAP

Of all the activities that the taxpayer is required to support, the Ordnance Survey is one of the few where he can console himself with the thought that his money is being spent on something first-class. Britain is probably the best surveyed and best mapped country in the world. The various series of OS maps are far more than mere aids to navigation: they record the marks that successive ages have left on the ground they inherited, and the way we mould, exploit and abuse the raw material we stand on. The records of the OS are an indispensable tool for historians and archaeologists. But they are not commercial and never can be.

The giddy increases in the price of OS maps in recent years are one sign of constant pressure from above to take more account of profitability. The customers of the service are vigilant, perennially convinced that it is not as good as it used to be, and keenly suspicious of any evidence of cost-cutting. As our letter columns have shown, they have reacted strongly to the news that the specialised archaeological survey section is to be

disbanded and its staff redeployed on general surveying work. Instead the Survey will rely on local authority sources for news of discoveries, which are still being made in increasing numbers every year.

The manner and timing of the decision are clumsy. There was no consultation with the professional bodies most concerned. The Department of the Environment is about to undertake a study of the Survey's work as a whole, and there have inevitably been suggestions that the move has been made in a hurry to forestall it. After many years of work a major field programme to make a comprehensive archaeological record of the British Isles is only two years from completion. Assurances have been given that the programme will not be interrupted and that the Survey's great archive will be maintained, but there are still fears that the work will not be carried on at the same high standard. Without authoritative records, the historical value of sites is reduced, and buried evidence can be unknowingly obliterated by new roads or factories.

According to the Council for

British Archaeology, there has been a good deal of duplicated effort between national and local services. But unilateral withdrawal is a haphazard way of remedying that. Some counties employ excellent archaeological survey teams, but many have standards that are not so high. All have been under pressure to reduce spending on such services, and no national coordination exists. The assertion by the Director of the Survey, yesterday, that "most county authorities... have agreed to co-operate" (our italics) is not reassuring.

The saving from the redeployment of about 40 staff is said to be about £100,000 a year, or rather less than a hundredth of the total running costs of the Survey. No doubt the Survey, like every other public enterprise, must bow to the need to economise. But the historical function adds relatively little to the cost of providing services of more immediate social utility. It is a matter for concern that such a small saving should be thought to warrant so serious a threat to a most valuable aspect of its work.

Wordsworth manuscript

From Lord Brooke of Cumnor and Sir. An important collection of hitherto unknown Wordsworth and Coleridge manuscripts was sold at Sotheby's in July for £38,500, and there is now the possibility of acquiring it for the nation. The reviewing committee for the export of works of art has suspended the issue of an export licence for four months to enable a British institution to match the purchase price; and the purchaser, Cornell University, has stated that it would be willing to consider an offer from the Trustees of Dove Cottage, Grasmere. The undersigned seek the hospitality of your columns for an appeal on their behalf.

The Library and Museum at Grasmere house some 85 per cent of Wordsworth's extant manuscripts and are the centre of research into the poet and his circle. Standards of conservation are high. With generous help from the Pilgrim Trust and the North Western Museums Service, three quarters of the archive have been transferred to the new building at Grasmere and it would be difficult to find a manuscript collection in better condition.

The present holdings of the Trust. The major Coleridge manuscript is a stage in the rapidly changing early textual history of Dejection that follows on from the Dove Cottage faircopy of April 4, 1802: the new manuscript of Wordsworth's *To the Cuckoo* should clearly be at Grasmere with the other lyrics of the period; the correspondence between Wordsworth and Dorothy, and the fascinating letters between the poet and his wife, fit into the effect are missing from the sequences at Dove Cottage; and there can be no doubt that the Wordsworth Library is the place for the archival material (walls, bills, inventories, sale catalogues, letters to lawyers and publishers) that bulks large in the collection.

The Trustees are reluctant to launch another appeal when it is already in progress for restoring and strengthening Dove Cottage and rehousing the Museum and Library. But with the sudden appearance of these new manuscripts they have no option. The matter is one of great urgency. The date of the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth is February 13, 1993. Substantial aid has already been promised from the Grant Fund administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

We appeal to all who are interested in helping to acquire this highly important collection to send their contributions to the Wordsworth Heritage Appeal, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria. Yours etc. BROOKE OF CUMNOR, DAVID CECIL, COLTESLOE (Chairman, Heritage in Danger), KENYON (Chairman, Friends of the National Library), C. V. WOODWARD, JONATHAN WORDSWORTH (Chairman, Trustees of Dove Cottage), Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Westmorland, November 8.

Royal spectacles

From Mrs Gertrude Shilling. Sir, I agree with Mrs Gladys Browne (Letters, November 9) that a long-term look back over a diary and usually wear one with other myself, but when, like her, I have to make a speech in evening dress, I have to resort to spectacles, as I fail to see how one can turn over notes and use a long-term at the same time without growing a third hand for that specific purpose.

Finding an internal Rhodesian settlement

From Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP for Penrlands (Conservative). Sir, Nicholas Ashford is right to suggest (November 10) that the British Government "seem more interested in last-minute acceptance of a Rhodesian settlement than of its acceptance by the black and white communities in Rhodesia."

Over the past few months Dr Owen has failed to give any serious consideration to the prospects of an internal settlement. Between Mr Smith and Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Shabane who clearly command widespread African support, his reasoning appears to be that such a settlement would not command the support of the front line presidents.

So be it. Should that prevent a settlement that would be acceptable to the vast majority of black and white Rhodesians? Which of the famous UN "big 5" principles require UN, OAU or some line approval before a settlement can be concluded?

Of course it would be preferable for an agreement that was acceptable to all the Nationalist leaders both inside and outside Rhodesia. It is clear, however, that such an agreement has only remote prospects of success. In its absence an internal settlement, reached by free elections inside Rhodesia, seems a perfectly acceptable substitute which would command widespread support.

Those who lived and worked in Rhodesia in the sixties I am convinced that there is a far greater harmony of interest between Mr Smith and the internal Nationalist leaders than at any time since UDI. Yours sincerely, MALCOLM RIFKIND, House of Commons, November 10.

Yuri Orlov's imprisonment

From Mr John Macdonald, QC. Sir, Now that Field Marshal Lord Carver has left Rhodesia, the International Defence and Aid Fund is greatly concerned that the progress has been made in his efforts to achieve a ceasefire. In our opinion, negotiations can have little meaning whilst conditions inside Rhodesia become more and more difficult and reports that the political organisations, we believe that the following aspects of the situation constitute an insurmountable obstacle to realistic negotiations on a ceasefire and subsequent progress towards majority rule.

1. Since April 1975 the regime has executed at least 99 people on political charges. Six of these have been sentenced to death since the publication of the British White Paper.

2. The most serious aspect of the Orlov case is that none of the 17 witnesses have been approached by the Procurator in Moscow. This failure to examine the evidence for the defence during the investigation period is a gross breach of articles 70, 71 and 95 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and makes a mockery of Soviet law. It also poses a direct challenge to the Belgrade Conference, for Orlov and his friends were seeking to do so to monitor the Helsinki Declaration.

The time has come for the British delegation to make it clear in public session at Belgrade that the Soviet Government will not receive any of the economic advantages it seeks under basket two of the Helsinki Declaration while it continues to ignore the human rights provisions. The Belgrade Conference cannot be a success if it ends with Yuri Orlov and his colleagues still in prison.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MACDONALD, 12 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3PS, November 8.

Financing British films

From Mr Wolf Rilla. Sir, On behalf of all British film technicians, we share Sir John Terry's delight (November 4) about the increase of public funds for British film production.

Can we, however, now make sure that any such funds are actually spent? Eighteen months ago £23.7m were made available to the National Film Finance Corporation. Up to March of this year only £17.0m was invested in film production. The rest has been used for NFFC overheads and interest payments. After a further interest payment of a quarter of a million, Sir John Terry announced in August that no more funds were available until March of next year. It seems that the rest of the money was left in the bank and not used.

A deputation from this union saw the Minister responsible and successfully pleaded with him at least to postpone this year's interest payments. An immediate £240,000 has therefore been made available to the NFFC, a drop in the ocean, maybe, but there is at least one significant part of the Middle East that Nasco does not know, and I should like to suggest that the company consider changing its name to Nasco. Yours faithfully, IAN M. TORRANCE, 501 Randolph Avenue, W9, November 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Assessing the quality of hotel guides

From Sir Charles Forte. Sir, Your Consumer Affairs Correspondent, Robin Young, very pertinently points to some of the more obvious contradictions and discrepancies to be found among the compilers of hotel guides (*The Times*, November 7).

Those who are responsible for the management of hotels and restaurants and catering establishments have for many years been aware of the inconsistencies perpetrated in some guides by self-appointed people who are not professional hoteliers or caterers but who make their living by selling guides. So far the industry has not openly contested these inconsistencies because it is accepted that, generally speaking, guides do have a usefulness for some of our customers. Against this, however, must be set the enormous damage to tourism and the industry done by guides which print sweeping, untrue statements of fact and misleading editorial attacks on particular segments of the industry. A case in point is the latest Egon Ronay reference to motorway catering which is apparently at variance with a survey carried out by the Department of the Environment, which reported that 79 per cent of people using motorway service areas were satisfied with the food they received.

There are at least ten guides on the market and a study of them reveals, as your correspondent points out, what an inexact hotel appraisal can be and how severe a distortion for sales results in the compilers vying with each other for the headlines. The Ronay publication appears to be no exception.

The selective use, in his latest edition, of emotive words, such as "awful", "appalling", "ordeal", in what purports to be a constructive appraisal of motorway food should decide no one. In fact, however, some of those responsible for news take the bait. How could the annual publicity band wagon roll if it did not have "appalling" and "awful" for wheels?

Quite apart from the ill effects

Mapping buried history

From Professor R. W. Cunliffe. Sir, Several correspondents have written to you expressing disquiet at the Ordnance Survey's action in disbanding its Field Survey Section and the Ordnance Survey has given his views today (November 11). Concern has been focused on two issues: the way in which the decision was made and its effects on British archaeology.

The Ordnance Survey decided upon their course of action without seeking the advice of either their own archaeological consultative committee or of other learned archaeological opinion. It is a matter of surprise and regret. It gives the impression of high-handed arrogance and of unseemly haste. That the decision was made at all, however, presents more serious problems.

The survey and recording of archaeological monuments in Britain is at present being undertaken by a number of uncoordinated bodies, and inevitably there is some degree of overlap. For many years the Royal Commissions on Historical Monuments have been working their way, with extreme care, country by country across the face of Britain. Their rate of progress is slow. The county of Dorset, for example, took in excess of 25 years to survey and publish. Meanwhile, in several counties sites and monu-

ments records have been created to provide a basis against which planning and related decisions can be made. These are funded by both local and central government money. The significance of the Ordnance Survey's contribution was that their coverage of National Monuments was countrywide and undertaken to a uniform standard. Now it is proposed to curtail this service. The result will be that while some counties will continue to receive thorough archaeological treatment through local initiative, others will be totally without coverage and archaeological sites of value will inevitably be destroyed without record.

The issue therefore is not whether the Ordnance Survey should continue to record archaeological monuments and at what level, but what is the most appropriate form of National Monuments Survey for Britain given the present frightening rate of destruction of our historical environment. This matter should be discussed at the highest level, and urgent action taken. Our heritage is so vast as to make the exercise irrelevant. By taking unilateral action without consultation the Ordnance Survey have only deepened the crisis.

Yours faithfully, BARRY CUNLIFFE, President, Council for British Archaeology, 7 Marylebone Road, NW1.

New BBC wavelengths

From Mr A. L. King-Harman. Sir, Mr Howard Newby (November 9) has made the point that Radio 4 will be available to all parts of the United Kingdom. He might have added that it will also reach all Western European countries and some Eastern—North of the Alps. It has hitherto been vital for some of us to see the BBC, and through it our country, projected in terms of soap opera and disc jockey. The minute coverage of the European Service does little to mitigate this.

Yours, etc. A. L. KING-HARMAN, 22 Avenue de l'Opéra, Brussels.

Wykehamist reading

From Mr Robert Farrar. Sir, Perhaps it should be pointed out that Winchester College's Boring Classics Fell, reported in the press on Tuesday, was intended not as a horrifying iconoclastic heresy, but as a piece of light entertainment. It occurred to me that your article announcing the results, instead of appearing as a news item on page 2 of your newspaper, would have been more at home on the humorous page.

However, I have just received the humorous page of *The Times*, so I can only conclude that we editors suffer from a common complaint: nobody understands our jokes. Yours faithfully, ROBERT FARRAR, Co-Editor of *The Wykehamist*, Kingsclere House, Winchester, Hampshire, November 9.

From Dr Peter Partner. Sir, As one named by *The Wykehamist* for the place of fifteenth Most Boring Author (albeit in staggeringly distinguished company), I would like to suggest that the editorial in question was a most amusing and provocative piece of journalism, which is to say none.

The Editors must have learned

Faux pas

From Dr R. F. Glascock. Sir, Your parliamentary report informs me today (November 10) that Mr Tom King (Conservative) put a motion to the House which read: "That this House calls upon the Prime Minister to require the resignation of the Secretary of State for Energy having regard to the incompetent role he has played in the miners' productivity battle..."

This, Sir, reveals an aspect of Mr Bone's character that few of his admirers can have suspected. Nevertheless, I am sure that many of them must feel as anxious as I to know the title of the work in which his performance called for such severe censure: *Dunse du Fou* perhaps or *Lus Sulphuricus*? I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, RAYMOND GLASCOCK, Little Grindlay, Church Lane, Arbury, Reading, November 10.

The role of 'The Times'

From Mr Derek Hudson. Sir, Surely the first volume of the *History of The Times* showed that the founding fathers of the idea of the Times as an independent state of the realm and a conscience of the world (to quote Philip Howard, November 9) were John Walter II and his editor, Thomas Barnes? Delane, it would appear, consolidated the position and built on their foundations.

Yours faithfully, DEREK HUDSON, 33 Beacon Hill Court, Binstead, Surrey, November 9.

that there is at least one significant part of the Middle East that Nasco does not know, and I should like to suggest that the company consider changing its name to Nasco. Yours faithfully, IAN M. TORRANCE, 501 Randolph Avenue, W9, November 8.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Effort to suppress bribery report in 5-nation clash over tough prevention code

By Malcolm Brown

A call for tough measures to fight commercial and political corruption has been made by a top-level commission set up two years ago to investigate extortion and bribery.

Pressure is being brought to suppress the report of the commission, whose members include Lord Shawcross, Mr. Jean Rey, former president of the European Commission, and Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister.

But representatives from Britain and the United States are expected to fight the report's main opponents—Germany, France and Belgium—and press for its publication after the November 23 meeting of the 54-nation International Chamber of Commerce, the Paris-based organization which set up the commission.

A copy of the report in the possession of The Times shows that the commission wants stringent new measures at national and international level to combat bribery. It also wants a voluntary code of ethics for business which would be policed by an international panel.

The commission gives its backing to the inter-governmental treaty on corruption being drafted under the aegis of the United Nations and says that this should commit states to fight extortion and bribery. It should provide for: stringent anti-corruption measures by individual governments; international co-operation and judicial assistance in dealing with extortion and bribery; and co-operation by all states in investigating and prosecuting offenders.

At a national level the commission wants to see disclosure procedures for both government officials involved in business

transactions and for business enterprises dealing with governments or government-controlled organizations.

States would be expected to devise means of making periodic reports to an appropriate governmental body about the financial interests and total wealth of officials and their immediate families. Reports would also have to be prepared on all payments and gifts received by government officials and their immediate families from enterprises doing business with those governments.

Also the commission wants to see provisions which would allow governments access to company information about agents dealing with public bodies or officials.

The commission dismisses the argument that corruption is always initiated by businesses.

The truth is that much bribery is in fact the response to extortion, the report says. Enterprises have no other choice, it says, in many countries, of trying to choose between giving in to extortion or not doing business.

"At the least it is true to say that, as in the case of theft, there would be no bribes if there were no willing, and often demanding, receivers."

Neither governments nor business alone could tackle the problem, so what was needed was complementary action by governments and the business community.

The commission suggests that the business community should establish a code of ethical practices under the wing of the ICC, should be set up to oversee its implementation.

It is this section of the report which has caused most dissen-

sion among the ICC member states, with Germany, France and Belgium leading the opposition to a policing panel.

The code is seen as a method of voluntary self-regulation. Its two principal articles would state that no one might demand or accept a bribe and that no enterprise might directly or indirectly, offer or give a bribe in order to obtain or retain business.

The code also suggests that organizations should take measures to ensure that no part of any payment made by it finds its way back to employees as a "kickback".

Provisions are sought in the code to regulate agents and intermediaries and to ensure that there are no "secret accounts" kept by companies.

On agents the code says that enterprises should maintain a record of the names and terms of employment of all agents dealing with public bodies or state enterprises whose remuneration exceeds \$50,000 (about £23,000) a year. This record would be open to inspection by auditors and government bodies.

The international panel the commission wants to oversee the code would have wide-reaching powers. These have already been watered down after much argument within the ICC, but still remain unparalleled to a number of powerful representatives on the council.

Among the most controversial suggestions made by the commission is that the panel should have the power, at its discretion, to name organizations denounced to it as having given bribes, if the organizations have refused to appear before the panel.

ICL shares drop after head resigns

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent

Shares in International Computers, Britain's main indigenous computer company, fell 10p yesterday to 208p after the resignation for family medical reasons of Mr. Geoffrey Cross, the managing director.

Mr. Cross was recruited from Univac, one of the larger United States computer suppliers, five and a half years ago since when ICL's turnover and pre-tax profit have risen from £154m and £3.3m in 1972 to £288m and £3.1m in 1976. Unofficially the company's 1977 turnover has been put at more than £400m.

He is succeeded by Dr. Christopher Wilson, formerly director of ICL's international division, who will remain on the ICL board until the end of this year.

Mr. Cross said yesterday that the primary reason for his decision to resign was anxiety over the health of his two sons, Stephen, aged two and a half, and Geoffrey, aged five. They had suffered severely and continually from bronchitis, and medical advice had recommended a move to a warm, dry climate.

He and his family would be



Mr. Cross (centre) outgoing managing director of International Computers with Dr. Wilson (right) who succeeds him and Mr. Tom Hudson, chairman.

returning early in the new year to the United States, where he would be looking for another job, but generally in the computer industry.

Mr. Cross is a naturalized American citizen.

A secondary reason for his decision, Mr. Cross said, was disappointment in his inability to contain some of the company's industrial relations problems.

ICL had suffered less than

most from such problems, but he was a perfectionist, and a better understanding between management and the trade unions over the past two years would have produced better results.

Last May, in the company's 1977 half-year report, Mr. Tom Hudson, chairman, noted that interruptions in production (at West Gorton, Manchester) caused by industrial relations problems had resulted in

failures to meet delivery commitments to customers.

Mr. Cross said he hoped his successor would be better able to convince people that the real fight was against IBM, and not "between ourselves".

Commenting on the fall in ICL share prices, Mr. Hudson

Treasury reveals shortfall of £2,250m in public expenditure for last financial year

By Melvyn Westlake

Evidence continues to emerge of the extent by which government departments and local authorities are spending less than had been planned.

Only days after a House of Commons select committee was told of under-spending in the current financial year, the Treasury has revealed that public expenditure in the last financial year, which ended in March, was some £2,250m (at 1977 survey prices) below the level planned in the Expenditure White Paper published as recently as last January.

The extent of last year's spending shortfall was disclosed yesterday by Mr. Joel Barnett, the Treasury's permanent secretary, in answer to a Parliamentary question. He explained that of the £2,250m, about £1,750m resulted from under-spending by the Government.

The balance, or the £500m, represented under-spending by local authorities.

The total shortfall last year would seem to amount to

between 3 and 4 per cent of total planned expenditure.

A shortfall of this order is very rare. It is also very significant in terms of aggregate demand within the economy, coming when output was so depressed and unemployment was rising rapidly.

It was already known that some under-spending had taken place during 1976-77. Last August, the Treasury disclosed that, spending within the new control system of cash limits, which covers about two-thirds of total public expenditure, was more than a £1,000m under the ceilings, in cash terms. In volume terms, the fall was even greater because of the way inflation had eaten into the real value of the Government's purchases of goods and services.

Mr. Barnett's answer yesterday to a parliamentary question from Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, provides a further piece of the jigsaw. Only last Monday, Treasury officials giving evidence before the Commons general subcom-

mittee of the Expenditure Committee had revealed that the government spending in the present year was running 4 per cent below the ceiling set by the cash limits.

Attempting to explain the reason for such shortfalls in planned spending, Mr. Barnett said on Wednesday that there were several factors at work in 1976-77.

For instance, there was a tendency not to build up programmes for which lower levels were planned for 1977-78. In addition, some new or expanded programmes did not develop as fast as the plans provided for.

Prices also moved ahead more quickly than the cash limits had assumed and the limits may well have made managers more cautious in committing themselves to expenditure. Furthermore, government lending to the nationalised industries fell short of the White Paper estimates.

Mr. Barnett admitted that the shortfall in public spending last year was "unusually large".

Belfast bids for Fairey offshoot fail

Short Brothers, the Belfast aircraft group, last night disclosed it had made abortive bids to buy the Britten/Norman Islander and Typhoon aircraft interests in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Britten/Norman is part of Fairey, the engineering group that last month called in a receiver after heavy losses on its Belgian operations.

Two offers were made by Short Brothers, one to the Fairey receiver for the United Kingdom business, and the other to the Belgian authorities that now have effective control of the operations there.

But Short Brothers said that both offers had been rejected. Originally it had hoped to buy just the British operations. But after discussions with the Belgian authorities it had become clear that because of some crucial rights, including the name Britten/Norman, agreement with both parties would be required.

New £600m Treasury stock issue

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

The Government is to continue its funding programme with the issue of a new £600m Treasury 10 per cent stock, which will be fully paid on application. It is being priced at 95½ per cent to give a running yield of 10.47 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 10.2 per cent.

What kind of reception the stock will get when it goes on offer next Thursday will depend to a large extent on how the gilt market performs early next week.

Although the authorities feel that the price has been set roughly in line with the market, brokers tended to feel that the stock was slightly on the dear side.

Yesterday prices at the longer end of the market improved by around 75p.

Swiss national bank: In an attempt to mop up the excess liquidity caused by recent large currency inflows, the Swiss national bank is to issue Sw fr 500m of short term securities with commercial banks. The paper will be for one year and will carry a 1.5 per cent coupon well below market rates.

Mr Blumenthal asserts need for a strong dollar

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Nov 11

Mr. Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, repeatedly asserted today that the Carter Administration wanted a strong dollar, and that the United States and the world derived no benefit from either a general weakening of the currency or from a devaluation in terms of one or two specific foreign currencies.

He stated at a Senate Banking Committee meeting that the United States would continue to intervene in the exchange markets to "smooth out erratic fluctuations", but that heavy intervention was not the way to maintain a strong dollar. The approach was to strengthen the domestic economy and reducing energy imports.

Mr. Blumenthal said he did not expect the dollar to continue to weaken on the foreign exchange markets. Under the administration of Senator William Brock, the committee chairman, he said that there should be no doubt that the Treasury was "absolutely in charge of the nation's currency policies" and that in carrying out "these policies" it worked

"closely and cooperatively with the Federal Reserve".

He added that the continual consultations with the governments of West Germany, Japan and several other countries on foreign exchange matters demonstrated most clearly that the United States did care about its exchange rate—the strength of the dollar is of great importance to us.

He said the fortunes of the dollar would be improved by administration actions that aim to make further progress on reducing domestic inflation and seek to ensure a 5 per cent real rate of gross national product growth next year.

In this regard, the Treasury Secretary left no doubt that President Carter would propose tax reductions early in the new year. It was important for the Administration to discuss some tax relief to individuals and provide greater opportunities for increased profitability for increased productivity. Wall Street up again. Confidence in the stock market yesterday pushed the Dow Jones industrial average 13.34 points to close at 845.89. Over 35 million shares were traded, and the market has now gained nearly 30 points in the last three sessions.

More optimistic view by investors

For the first time in a fortnight the FT index was back over 500 on the London stock market yesterday as investors took a more optimistic view of the industrial scene.

At 501.4 it closed 11.7 better on the day and 25.2 higher over a week dominated by the ebb and flow of industrial news.

Gilt-edged securities were also in good form scoring early gains of almost £1 which were sustained by the hope of a good set of trade figures on Monday.

Investor's week, page 21

70m sugar scheme

A self-financed investment programme worth £70m over the next two years was announced yesterday by the British Sugar Corporation

In brief

group which processes all sugarbeet grown in the United Kingdom. It will complete the "Europeanization" of the British sugar industry by making the country supply more than half of its consumption for the first time by 1980. The corporation said the programme would not change the size of its labour force.

Cost of gains indexing

Indexing capital gains to take account of inflation would incur costs of the order of £250m if recent inflation rates continued, according to a Treasury

answer to a Parliamentary question published yesterday. The yield of the tax is presently £330m. Zero-rating of maintenance work in construction would cost about £125m a year.

£22m Wimpey order

George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) has won a £22m contract from the Federal Military Government to build troop quarters at Lokoja, Kwara state.

The contract, due to be completed in August 1979, will be carried out under the direction of the Armed Forces Development Projects Task Force in Lagos.

Wimpey is already working on two large Nigerian contracts—one worth £28m

Ford faces another week of disruption at Halewood

By Edward Townsend

Another week of disruption faces Ford at its Halewood plant on Merseyside, as a result of a paint shop dispute which has already caused big lay-offs and production losses.

This week, output of Escort cars and vans has been halted by separate disputes on the day and night shifts in the paint shop, causing almost 3,000 workers to be on strike or laid off.

The night shift dispute developed when 21 painters stopped work over a redundancy issue. They are to return on Monday when the shift change over to a fortnightly rota system and the 4,000 workers laid off will be recalled.

Day shift workers this week were laid off for a dispute over the dismissal of a painter who allegedly assaulted a foreman.

The issue is further complicated by a decision by the plant's union not to resume work until the dismissal matter is resolved. This could mean that those recalled next week could be laid off again within a few hours.

Skilled workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside yesterday rejected the company's offer of a 3.5 per cent payment for craft differentials, a deal that has already been accepted by craftsmen at the Luton and Dunstable factories.

The Merseyside workers, members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, are to attend another mass meeting tomorrow.

Six thousand workers have been laid off at Ellesmere Port, and it was not clear yesterday whether the company intended to recall the 14,000 laid off from the other two plants.

Scottish Motor Show: Some 25,000 visitors had the kind of death wish Mr. David Plastow, President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said in Glasgow at the opening of the 51st Scottish Motor Show yesterday.

"The Europeans and Japanese are far more competitive. They supply their dealers and they fill their pipelines. We have a sort of death wish and we have to stop it now."

Engineers attack Acas over denial of recognition

A furious attack on the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) came yesterday from the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE) in the wake of its service's refusal to recommend recognition for the association in negotiations at the Bedford engineering company of W. H. Allen & Sons.

A delegation of some 60 professional engineers warned Mr. Peter Carr, Acas's national director, that if it similarly turned down the association at a further 25 sites which were coming up for examination

Acas will be forcing responsible industrial engineers to take industrial action as the only means of obtaining recognition for the trade union of their choice.

In the W. H. Allen case professional engineers there staged a one-day token strike but it is expected that members elsewhere angry that Acas appears to be against it because it is not affiliated to the TUC, will now take more decisive strike action.

Bank of Rome chief freed after cooperation pledge

Rome, Nov 11

Signor Mario Barone, joint managing director of the Bank of Rome, has been released after undertaking to provide full information to the Milan magistrates investigating the Sindona case. He is considered by them as a witness and no longer as an accused person.

Signor Barone was arrested in Milan on Wednesday for alleged reticence in giving information during questioning about the affairs of Signor Michele Sindona, the Sicilian-American financier whose banking interests in Italy were taken over by the Bank of Rome at the time of the collapse of

his empire three years ago. Judge Guido Viola of the Public Prosecutor's Office, said that Signor Barone underwent further interrogation yesterday, as a result of which it was decided to free him and drop the charge against him.

He described as "rather colourful" Italian press reports that Signor Barone had been released on condition he provided by 5 pm tomorrow a list of some 500 personalities alleged to have used the Sindona banking network to smuggle lire out of Italy to Switzerland. He indicated, however, that Signor Barone had undertaken to cooperate fully

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Asd	4p to 54p
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Bis	20p to 51p
Callia Inv	18p to 230p
Fis	10p to 400p
His Smith	3p to 30p
Hirshman	10p to 67p
Ker Ulman	5p to 51p
Lee & Gen	6p to 66p
Midwell	15p to 268p

Fis

ICI	10p to 208p
Leptec Inv	5p to 79p
Pates Zoch	5p to 210p

Eags were strong. Ginged securities added £1. No. premium: 98.5 per cent (five rate 37.42 per cent). Silver was 25 pence down at 51.8. The effective exchange rates was at 63.8.

Other pages

Basic Rates Table 22

Interim statement: CFP

The Times index: 209.67+3.90

The FT index: 501.4+11.7

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
buy	sell
Australia \$	1.66
Austria Sch	30.75
Belgium Fr	66.75
Canada \$	2.96
Denmark Kr	11.50
Finland Mk	7.75
France Fr	9.12
Germany DM	4.85
Greece Dr	76.90
Hongkong \$	8.27
Italy Lr	1625.00
Japan Yu	478.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60
Norway Kr	78.00
Portugal Esc	78.00
S Africa Rd	1.76
Spain Pes	157.00
Sweden Kr	9.90
Switzerland Fr	4.20
US \$	1.86
Yugoslavia Dnr	39.25

Notes for small denomination bank notes are supplied separately. The pound is the unit of account for the pound sterling and other foreign currency business.

22

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Many investment trust companies have been attempting to smarten up the presentation of their annual shareholders' accounts of late, in line with the new publicity-conscious wave of idealism that is sweeping parts of the movement.

But, under the present rules covering the amount of disclosure required by the investment trust groups, the slower, or slyer, ones are still able to get away with giving shareholders less than a peep at the underlying assets.

The Stock Exchange requires companies to reveal their largest investments to shareholders and any holding of over 5 per cent has to be revealed automatically any way under a recent amendment in company law. But within those requirements investment trust groups can interpret the Stock Exchange's regulations more or less as they wish. Some merely give the ten largest holdings—some give the top 20.

The Stock Exchange also requires a breakdown of geographic spread, industrial sectors and the ratio of equities to fixed interest securities. But even when a group has fulfilled these rather vague requirements its shareholders can still be left monumentally ignorant about their group's investments.

Contrast this with the requirements for unit trust groups, where portfolios must be revealed in their entirety once a year. Investment trust shareholders do not even have the automatic right to receive full details of their group's year-end holdings by applying to the company.

Several investment trust companies, do, of course, offer the full unexpurgated version on request and a number of trust companies have, happily, adopted the annual habit of full disclosure. The Five Schroder Waggs trusts, Stewart American's Scottish American trust and Ivory & Sime's British Assets are examples. But dozens continue to disclose little other than the top ten or so holdings.

The Association of Investment Trust Managers should consider giving its members some firm guidance on disclosure—it cannot, after all, do the public image anything other than good. Professional investors or advisers would find the information useful, particularly in working out more accurate asset values; and the more sophisticated private investor would welcome it as an aid in checking the investment skills of the manager.

Taxation: readers ask

Covenants • Schedule E assessments • Loan interest • Gains tax

This week's article is given over to readers' letters and the subjects are deeds of covenant, schedule E assessments, capital gains and the deductibility of loan interest.

On deeds of covenant, a reader writes: "My 18 year old daughter begins a degree course next month and as she will receive only a small grant we intend to make a deed of covenant in her favour. We are not sure where the Government's plans for phasing out child allowance leave us at the moment, and therefore what is the most favourable figure to choose for the covenanted sum."

The child allowance at present in force for children under 16 and for aged 16 and 17 and receiving full-time education is £261 for a first child and £235 for others. If the child's income exceeds £350 (this includes earnings from holiday jobs and the gross amount of investment income which is not tax exempt, such as from trusts and deeds of covenant) the allowance is reduced by the amount of the excess.

So there are two clear-cut alternatives. One is to pay a modest amount under the deed so that the child's income does not exceed £350. The parent will deduct basic rate tax of 34 per cent from the gross amount—there is no relief at the higher rates—and pay over the net sum to the child, who will receive the full amount after the 34 per cent tax is deducted. Alternatively, the parent can claim tax relief on the child allowance at his (or her if a single parent) highest rate of tax. The other alternative is for the parent to covenant to pay a gross figure up to the full amount of the tax-free single personal allowance (now £945 following the recent mini-budget) Tax will be deducted at the basic rate, which can be reclaimed by the child.

The penalty here is that tax relief on the child allowance is lost and at the parent's highest rate. However, this penalty gets less important as time goes on due to the fact that child allowances are eventually to be phased out altogether. According to the latest information for 1978-79, the allowance for children aged 16 or over will be reduced to £165.

There were a few more questions from this particular reader but one that arises from a misunderstanding. To clear the point, it is the child benefit that automatically ceases when the child reaches the age of 19, not the child allowance, which continues while the child is receiving full-time education—until of course it is phased out.

For the tax year in which full-time education ceases the question whether the parent can claim any child allowance depends on the child's income for that year. If it is over £350 the child allowance is reduced by the excess.

The letter continues: "Will the entire amount (of the payment under the deed) be attributed to one tax year though paid quarterly from October?" No, it is the gross amount due for payment in the tax year that is relevant.

Lastly, would it be possible later to increase the covenanted sum—perhaps by a second deed—to bring it up to the single person's tax-free allowance? Yes, additional deeds can be executed, or the first one can be cancelled (by mutual agreement with the donee) and another substituted.

For the avoidance of doubt let me stress that what I have said above is not relevant to children under the age of 18.

Clive company

Clive Investments, part of the Clive Discount Group, has formed a new Jersey company to provide fixed interest fund management in sterling securities for Channel Islands or other non-United Kingdom resident investors. The new company is

During the many years in which I wrote about industry and all aspects of finance, I was hoping one day to write a book about family finance, because readers' letters showed how badly it was needed. So I am very glad that Margaret Allen has finally done it with "The Money Book".

"People rarely budget," she says, "defining the difference between proper budgeting and a rather miserly penny-pinching, penny-counting attitude." They may think they do but mostly they live from hand to mouth and then start worrying when problems begin to accumulate. I hope I have been able to help them to plan, to prevent trouble, to avoid the terrible stress and fright that money and the shortage of it can bring. There really are few anxieties worse than those about money."

I put it to her that money is frightening even before people start thinking about it; that there are more mental blocks about money-management than about marriage, sex or having children. That people who instinctively manage money badly also find themselves bored by it and so with those who really need her book read all about it?

"Yes, they are bored," she admits. "But I have tried to make them see that it is simple, and then the fear and the boredom go."

She starts where she should and where so few writers of money books ever really do: at the very beginning of budgeting. She points out the priorities, the questions every one should ask themselves and perhaps less easily answer. She goes on through every possible variety of saving and spending from mortgages to insurance and from travel to holidays.

Jobs and unemployment get their own section, including advice on employment contracts and on unemployment or re-

Your money and your life...



Margaret Allen, author of The Money Book.

dundancy entitlements. She carries that through logically to advice on running your own partnership or company.

Family Finance is the heading of section three, but I must stress that the whole book is as much about family finance as investment or savings advice. How right it is to have chapters about having babies and the cost of bringing them up together with information on the various benefits involved.

Divorce and maintenance, living together and single-parent families get their own advice, and many a man or woman left alone would find the future

a good deal easier to face merely by reading her account of what to do in such circumstances, for these are times when the brain fails to focus properly and practical commonsense help and advice are essential. Synopses are all very well and just as essential, but nobody can actually buckle down to living on the edge of the cliff and go to for advice and solace.

The urgency at this stage arises from the requirement that employers must give three months' notice to employees and their representatives to allow time for consultation on any proposal to contract out.

Incidentally, the law also requires employers to give notice and consult about a decision not to contract out; but this is no penalty for compliance, and, if an employer does nothing, his employees will automatically be taken into the state scheme.

It is this feature which gives the situation financial importance for pension scheme members themselves. Allowing for the three-month period of notice, the deadline for decision making is December 14. If the employer fails to meet that timetable, his employees will be taken into the state pension scheme and they will have to pay the higher rate of contribution appropriate to people who are not contracted out.

Most people who are expecting to be contracted out are already members of a "good" occupational pension scheme (according to Mrs Castle's defi-

full credit to accountants and spelling out why and when they are necessary.

In the section on investment she leads beginners through what seems initially like a maze, but also clearly explains how the different types of investment work, and money markets, and property investments as well. As far as one can in a relatively few pages, she touches on buying antiques, collecting silver, stamps, banknotes, gems and wine before going on to the rather more solid business of advice on providing for retirement.

Is it part of her obvious aim to be as comprehensive as possible, or is it her sense of humour that tempers her on the section on investing with a chapter on gambling, taking in football pools, horses (including the quipped-it self), greyhound racing, gaming and bingo?

That is the whole point of the book, the comprehensive, sound advice. I should add that there is a final section on your money and the law which helps you on consumer protection rights, the laws on credit buying and secondhand goods, on debts and bankruptcy as well as advising on how to find a solicitor and what legal aids are on tap.

Much of the book, if not all of it, has been said and written before, often in more detail. But I will stick my neck out and say that the data have never before been collected and put together in a single volume. A thick volume—435 pages—besides the good and useful index and contents pages—is a manageable one. It is the sort of book to keep on the shelf and go to for advice and solace.

Sheila Black

The Money Book: Your Money & Your Life, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.50.

Insurance

Life funds and low interest rates

While many investors think mainly in terms of capital appreciation, it is usually income which is most important to a life office—and this, indirectly, is its profit-sharing policyholders.

That fact was demonstrated at the end of 1974. Despite the sharp fall in equity prices, no office reduced its reversionary bonus rate and there were a number of increases.

This was achieved because of the higher rates of interest which could be obtained.

Over the past few months the position has changed quite markedly; equity prices have risen and interest rates have dropped. How will this affect life bonuses?

Rates of interest in the long term are what really matter to a life office, and so it is unlikely that actuaries will be too worried at this stage, though there is the disturbing consideration that while interest rates have come down there has so far been no marked drop in the rate of inflation. The gap between market rates of interest and inflation has widened.

In calculating their non-profit whole life and endowment premiums many actuaries have recently been assuming gross long-term rates of interest of between 9 and 11 per cent. The much higher rates of interest obtainable have been something of a bonus, and by investing heavily in the gilt-edged market, many offices have been able to increase the overall return on their funds quite significantly; that should stand them in good stead in the future.

No doubt some offices have

felt that it could be a long time before such high rates of interest would be obtainable again. Where possible, therefore, large offices may have invested at high rates of interest for periods beyond the date needed to meet liabilities, so as to obtain the advantage of these rates for as long as possible.

Useful as that may sound, an office must make sure that it always has assets to match its liabilities, however yields and prices may move in the future.

Actuaries might have to think again about bonuses and premium rates if over a period of some years long-term rates of interest come down to about 8 per cent or even less, even though inflation might have been brought under control. Much would then depend on what increases in income were

being obtained from equity and property investments.

Terminal bonuses are a different proposition. To a great extent they depend on capital appreciation—on equities, although the outside world is not always so friendly to individual offices.

When share prices dropped sharply, some offices reduced their terminal bonuses. Already, some increases have been made. With most offices, terminal bonuses will not fluctuate to the same extent as equity prices, since some of the fluctuation in price is likely to be compensated for by a corresponding rise or fall in rates of interest obtained on fixed interest investments; and any office is bound to have a substantial proportion of its funds in such investments.

John Drummond

Round-up

Well, do we need a property unit trust?

Tucked away in the evidence of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to the Wilson Committee is a recommendation that the Government should permit the formation of authorized unit trusts through which individual savers could invest in property. At present the Department of Credit will not authorize an investment by a unit trust in

property, although trusts may, and do, specialize in property company shares. (Existing property unit trusts are not authorized because of the expense of this on the basis of present charges to the investor.)

It is doubtful if the RIC's recommendations will be considered very seriously because investment by conventional unit trusts in bricks and mortar poses a variety of problems.

One problem is that movement of the unit trust industry is designed for the small investor—average holdings at present are less than £1,000. Whereas the unit trust manager can fairly easily sell quoted investments if he encounters a large number of redemptions, a property trust could find it extremely difficult to liquidate office blocks to order.

What is more many unit trusts are too small to build up a reasonable property portfolio.

A property unit trust would require regular and frequent valuations and it is doubtful whether any management group could afford the expense of this on the basis of present charges to the investor.

The individual investor can, anyway, invest in property directly through property bonds. These are covered by insurance legislation, which has been overhauled and tightened up greatly in recent years.

The protective regulations covering the unit trust industry are designed to meet the contingencies of stock exchange investment and are clearly inadequate to deal with the particular problems of liquidity and unmarketability raised by the idea of a property unit trust.

The Pre-Retirement Association has produced the ninth edition of its valuable guide Money and

Your Retirement. It contains information and advice on subjects ranging from the immediate financial implications of retirement to the fringe benefits available and the making of investments or wills to suit your circumstances.

The booklet is only 90p, obtainable post free from the Pre-Retirement Association, 19 Uxbridge Street, London SW7 8PP.

In the investment trust sector a merger, is planned between two of the "badler" trusts, Carliol and Tyneside. Under the proposed scheme of arrangement Carliol will be merged into Tyneside on the basis of 97 Carliol shares for every 100 Tyneside shares.

There are substantial group crossholdings in both companies' preference share capital. Both groups of preference shares will be cancelled and existing shareholders offered 15p Tyneside preference and 13p Carliol preference.

Tough luck for the preference shareholders: par value in both cases is 25p. Some of the bigger investment trusts bids show a more generous attitude towards holders of a "good" popular class of share. Under the Carliol/Tyneside merger terms the offers do not look particularly attractive.

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Where a basic rate tax has to be deducted by the parent of the maintenance, this can be reclaimed if the children's annual income is below £945. Where the amounts are less than £12 weekly or £32 monthly they are termed "small maintenance payments" and are paid gross to the recipient.

These weekly or monthly limits apply to each separate payment—£12 or £32 each for individual children. The gross amount of the payment is taken off the payer's income as an annual charge before his assessment for income tax. In the same way as a mortgage payment, but if the court order refers to main-

Pensions

Contracting out day matters to everyone

You may have noticed with casual interest the recent announcements about the approaching deadline for contracting out of the new state earnings-related pension scheme, due to start next April. If you belong to your employer's pension scheme or are due to join one by next April, you should make more than a casual interest—it may cost you money if your employers misses the contracting out deadline.

The Occupational Pensions Board are responsible for administering the contracting out arrangements; they hoped to be able to process applications—tens of thousands of them—over a long period starting in the spring of this year. For various reasons, particularly uncertainty about the requirements and about the effect of pay restraint, there was considerable delay in the early stages. Even now the flow of applications is only just beginning to build up and only a few hundred cases have been processed.

Regulations recently published allow the board to issue certificates without examining all the documents, subject to an undertaking that any deficiencies will be put right. This will enable employers to obtain certificates on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

The urgency at this stage arises from the requirement that employers must give three months' notice to employees and their representatives to allow time for consultation on any proposal to contract out. Incidentally, the law also requires employers to give notice and consult about a decision not to contract out; but this is no penalty for compliance, and, if an employer does nothing, his employees will automatically be taken into the state scheme.

It is this feature which gives the situation financial importance for pension scheme members themselves. Allowing for the three-month period of notice, the deadline for decision making is December 14. If the employer fails to meet that timetable, his employees will be taken into the state pension scheme and they will have to pay the higher rate of contribution appropriate to people who are not contracted out.

Most people who are expecting to be contracted out are already members of a "good" occupational pension scheme (according to Mrs Castle's defi-

nition of "good") and the majority are paying contributions towards their pension benefits under the scheme. The contracting out arrangements are intended as a way of avoiding double provision and double contributions.

Some new schemes are being set up, or existing modest schemes improved, and here again the aim is to ensure that the new scheme will be able to contribute to the cost, or increase the level of contributions they are already making.

These contributions will be payable whether or not the contracting out arrangements go through in time. So if there is some slip-up over the administrative procedures and a delay in obtaining a certificate, the scheme members will find themselves paying both contributions to their employer's pension scheme and the higher rate of contribution to the state scheme.

Both sets of contributions will, of course, earn the appropriate benefit at retirement. From that point of view there is an aspect to worry—there will be no financial loss as a result; but there is a limit to how much people want to put aside for their old age, particularly after a period of falling living standards.

The amount involved is 23 per cent of earnings between the "lower earnings level" and the "upper earnings level". At present, these levels are £13 a week and £31 a week, but next April, when the new state scheme starts, the figure will be revised upwards. The upper figure is about one and a half times national average earnings.

Just as the limits are not yet finally decided, so the contribution rate still has to be announced—it depends to some extent on the number of schemes expected to contract out. Probably the rate will go up, for employers not contracted out, by either 2 per cent or 1 per cent.

In conjunction with the increase on the upper limit of earnings on which contributions are payable, the change will have a noticeable effect on pay packets after April 6. Anyone contracted out will pay 23 per cent of earnings between the two limits for people who are not contracted out—this figure at least is fixed. As National Insurance contributions do not qualify for investment relief, this 23 per cent is a straight addition to the pay packet.

The effect for people contracted out will probably be a reduction in contributions, even for those earning more than the new upper limit.

So, problems about getting through the contracting out procedure in time are not just the concern of employers or pensions consultants; if things go wrong, it may hit the pocket of scheme members.

Eric Brunet

unit trusts from Schlesinger. The Exempt High Yield has an estimated gross starting yield of 81 per cent and will specialize in smaller companies. The Exempt Market Leaders fund is a new index-fund, expected to move within 5 percentage points of the FT all share index.

These funds broaden the range on offer by Schlesinger to pension funds, charities and other gross funds. Trident Life is launching a new link to their managed investment funds. Investors will be able to link to two high yielding unit trusts, the Schlesinger Extra Income and the Trident Income. The main advantage is that the annual 5 per cent withdrawal can be made from the higher average income, leaving the capital intact.

New products revealed this week include two "exempt"

Children

Income tax problems for the very young

You're never too young to pay tax—that must be the motto of the Inland Revenue. Its long arm reaches even into the cradle. From its very day of birth a child may be a fully paid-up member of the taxable classes and obliged to fill in an annual return in his own right.

But it is not all gloom. The birth of a child means greater tax allowances for the parents, even if these are no longer the tax saving glories they once were.

Child tax relief, family allowances and the child benefit: Child tax relief, the personal tax relief you get in respect of each child, is due to be phased out over the next few years. The birth of a child means greater tax allowances for the parents, even if these are no longer the tax saving glories they once were.

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tween the first child and the rest, is still available for parents who cannot claim child benefit. Into this category fall parents of children who are abroad or parents of full-time students over 19 years old on December 31, 1976.

If the parent is living and taxed in the United Kingdom then he can claim the larger allowance, though not child benefit. The relief is £300 for children under 11, £335 for those between 11 and 16 and £365 for older children. If foreign social security benefits are being paid for the child the United Kingdom allowance is forgone.

High rate taxpayers often preferred to disclaim family allowances altogether in the past because these were taxed and the "clawback" could result in a higher overall tax bill. Child benefit is tax free and everyone should claim it, if they have children.

In the next tax year, from April, 1978, the child benefit rates are increasing and the same amount will be paid for all children, regardless of position in the family or age.

The new levels of child tax relief for 1978-79 will revert to being the same for first and second or subsequent children, although the age differential is being maintained. The relief will be £100 for children under 11, £135 for those between 11 and 16 and £165 for those over 16.

From April, 1979, the tax relief for the under eleens will go completely, but there is a characteristic governmental decision about the timetable for dismantling the rest.

It does not take a genius to see that eventual phasing out brings to an end one cherished notion of the tax system—the belief that older children cost more than young ones. If you have bought a one-year-old's first pair of walking shoes

recently you might be inclined to challenge this traditional assumption. There appears to be no move afoot to reinstate it in the new child benefit system. Discreet or separated fathers paying maintenance to children who may have established a right to whole or part of the child tax relief will clearly find themselves out of pocket. Child benefit is paid to the person with day-to-day care of the children, usually the mother, while the tax relief was usually claimed by the supporting father.

Additional personal relief: If you are a single, divorced, separated or widowed parent you will be entitled to reduce your amount of taxable income further. You can claim the additional personal relief for children of £510. In this tax year it brings the amount of the single person's allowance, £945, up to the level of the married men's allowance, £1,455.

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the threat of aggregation is always up its sleeve. One of the reasons for aggregation being such a hotly argued subject is that it can result in the loss of the real amount of money received by ex-wives and their children living on maintenance. Maintenance payments are classified as investment income—whereas the bulk of the majority of cases it is paid by the former spouse out of his pay packet.

Instead of doing what most people think is the logical thing and reclassifying these payments as income the Government permits the first £1,500 of annual maintenance awards to be free of the investment income surcharge, providing a measure of relief for families in this position.

Disaggregation of children's income means that where the court order, under which these payments are made, awards maintenance directly to the children, the tax position can be made even more favourable for the recipients. Each child can receive up to £945 a year tax-free—although the mother (or father) will lose part or all of the child tax relief.

Where a basic rate tax has to be deducted by the parent of the maintenance, this can be reclaimed if the children's annual income is below £945. Where the amounts are less than £12 weekly or £32 monthly they are termed "small maintenance payments" and are paid gross to the recipient.

These weekly or monthly limits apply to each separate payment—£12 or £32 each for individual children. The gross amount of the payment is taken off the payer's income as an annual charge before his assessment for income tax. In the same way as a mortgage payment, but if the court order refers to main-

tenance as an annual sum, the payments cannot be classified as gross maintenance payments, even if the weekly or monthly average is below £12.

Clearly, if aggregation were reintroduced the child's income would, in all circumstances, be classified as the mother's and increase the likelihood of the family paying the investment income surcharge on maintenance payments.

Solicitors who draw up financial agreements between warring couples are often busy about their clients' tax positions—or the rapid changes that affect them. The opportunity to secure the tax benefits of non-aggregation are frequently missed because of the precise wording of these court orders.

If it is stated that maintenance for the child should be paid to the mother, it is all classified as her income for tax purposes. It is important to make the order so that the money is payable directly to the child—who should be named—even if one is referring to a babe in arms and clearly for practical purposes, the money will be paid to the mother.

Despite all the complication over their income, the tax rule for your children's capital gain is mercifully simple. Each child is assessed separately.

Although, as we have seen, the dividends received from the family paying the investment income rule for gains of up to £5,000 in any tax year.

Margaret Drummond



Stock Exchange Prices

Long Gilt Feature

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday, Dealings End, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS			
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Index for 11.11.77 (close)
 Date June 2, 1966 original base date June 2, 1966

Index	Value	Index	Value
1000	1000.00	1000	1000.00
1001	1001.00	1001	1001.00
1002	1002.00	1002	1002.00
1003	1003.00	1003	1003.00
1004	1004.00	1004	1004.00
1005	1005.00	1005	1005.00
1006	1006.00	1006	1006.00
1007	1007.00	1007	1007.00
1008	1008.00	1008	1008.00
1009	1009.00	1009	1009.00
1010	1010.00	1010	1010.00
1011	1011.00	1011	1011.00
1012	1012.00	1012	1012.00
1013	1013.00	1013	1013.00
1014	1014.00	1014	1014.00
1015	1015.00	1015	1015.00
1016	1016.00	1016	1016.00
1017	1017.00	1017	1017.00
1018	1018.00	1018	1018.00
1019	1019.00	1019	1019.00
1020	1020.00	1020	1020.00
1021	1021.00	1021	1021.00
1022	1022.00	1022	1022.00
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1024	1024.00	1024	1024.00
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1036	1036.00	1036	1036.00
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1045	1045.00	1045	1045.00
1046	1046.00	1046	1046.00
1047	1047.00	1047	1047.00
1048	1048.00	1048	1048.00
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Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Children tried out toys for me and gave me their reactions, as well as the reasons for choosing the toys they tried. Everything they chose comes from Hamley's catalogue (200 Regent Street, London, W1), and it is also a Mecca for a crowd of personal shoppers. One of the advantages of Hamley's is that most of the toys can actually be tried out, often in small spaces, and played with. The same is true of their newish Model Centre in Welbeck Street (the Oxford Street end) and the new Sport and Leisure centre in Wigmore Street (where Debenhams and Freebody, later Harvey Nichols, used to be). The latter is open from 8 am to 8 pm, is staffed by enthusiasts for the sports departments in which they serve joyfully because the peculiar hours give them long shifts off in which to train or compete.

But to our children. Mamma made the choice for young Jacob, 10 months old and feeling very grown up because he got a set of Lego Bricks (£2.25 to make pull-along elephants). The set is aimed at infants from 18 months old, but Jacob chews them, throws them down. The bricks are the ideal size for him to chuck and handle, and he loves the hollow undersides into which his fingers just fit for prodding. He packs and repacks the Lego into its box, which is very strong with a carrying handle, while his parents feel their money has been well spent because the set will not only become a more educational toy, lasting for years, but she can be added to as time goes by. Jacob does everything but make elephants.

Jacob's brother, Sampson (aged eight) does not like fluffy toys. "I don't mind fluffy strong ones. I like model planes because I can use them with my soldiers and any toys which go with things I've got already and books because a lot of the time I am reading, excuse my writing, and I have broken my arm." His writing was excellent. Alban, aged six, likes models, outdoor games and poetry, but three-year-old Joshua writes "almost legibly—dislikes noisy toys."

Zoe, 10 months, is one of literally dozens of girls who have been given girls' toys and her opinion sums up the others when she says: "I don't usually like my Christmas presents because people always buy me girls' toys and boys' toys are usually more exciting, but friends laugh when I tell them and never get them for me, although they are not expensive. My Mum and Daddy are good and give me what I want, for instance they got me a Bionicle Action Man and a Meccano set and they did not think it was funny, but that's what school did."

She chose a torch which was "marvellous and definitely worth it and I play with it every single day and keep it under my pillow because I love it. My sister and I have played nearly every day with the cars and the articulated transporter", which is £4.65 with drop-down top deck, rear-loading ramp and five Matchbox cars. A smaller transporter with aeroplane is £1.85.

Fiona, aged 15, could not resist the chemistry set by Thomas Salter Science because, although she does not like chemistry "this is quite different and great fun". Denys, 15, likes Fishes and Whales and Airfix Cross Stitch were tricky at first, often difficult, but enough fun to be acceptable, though designed principally for girls.

More girls than I care to count were in love with radio-controlled cars and helicopters (for millions) at £47 for the latter, although the cars are from about £25).

Scott (14) condescended a bit when he put Pin Pictures into a class for the "younger generation and thought young girls would love them". But he loved the pottery wheel and did not think of it as silly and girlish at all. Cym, 11, found the pottery wheel disappointing, loved the chemistry and the Pin Pictures, on which she comments that "girls would like but so would boys."



Thomas Salter, already praised for the costlier chemistry set, is good at cheaper sets too. A fingerprint kit is 99p, as are a flower-making kit and an excellent little pack of metal puzzles for all ages, called Puzzle Pack. Fun with Soap is a soap-making kit at £1.99 and Fun with Optics or Magnets are £1.29 each. I find fault with a number of their other kits and I honestly do recommend shopping where you can see, feel and examine a prototype box because poor materials are terribly disappointing.

If you do not object to Smurfs and Dutch games, there is an action kit for the young (up to about nine or 10 years old) which includes an automatic toy pistol, belt and holster, handcuffs and keys, plastic walkie-talkie, identity card and a poster of Glaser and Soul in their roles. All the components are cheap but so is the total price of £3.99—there is a £5.99 set with some additions.

Plastic-embedding kits are very, very good but I think few children would want perfume kits, which appeal to adults.

Magic kits are usually poorer value than buying the preferred magic tricks and practical jokes separately through Ellisdon's catalogue, 10p from Dallas Road, Bedford, or from Magic Shops. There is also a magic department at Hamley's, by post.

For personal inspection and shopping and there are usually a number of specialist magic shops in larger towns and cities. Frohistrater, 115 by, Ancient Friends are not only realistic, original and very easy to make but gruesome enough to be loved by children for their ugliness. The kit is of plain, strong calico printed with the outlines for cutting and making up either a Pteranodon with a disproportionate wing span or a Triceratops with rounded jaw and head. They are in most shops now and can be bought by mail from Upstairs Downstairs, 29 Talkin Street, Southport, Merseyside, for £4.95 each.

John Lewis shops have plenty of modelcraft kits to make, from needcraft kits to make tomatoes, trains, frogs, buses, hamburgers and aeroplanes, all but the last with expressionful faces at prices from 99p to £1.55. Denys kits make a hedgehog with baby, spider, curly lamb, ladybird and a couple of friendly dinosaurs from Multi-Coloured Swap Shop called Fred with a scarf and Post Paws—these are from 99p to

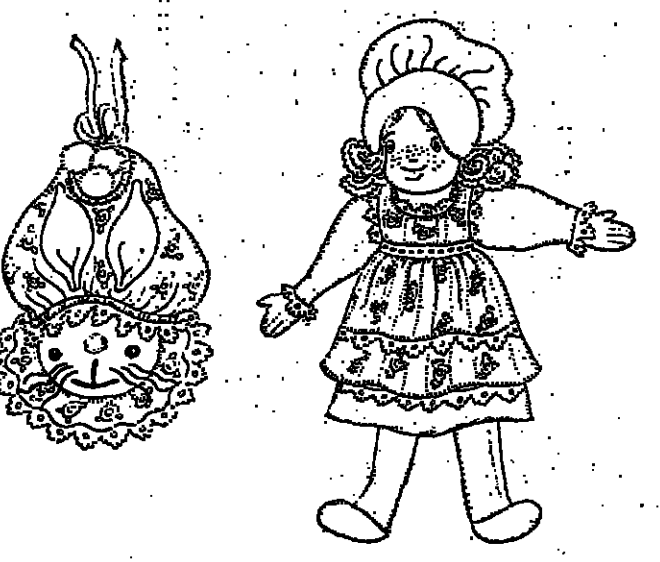


£3.45 and the dinosaurs are only £1.95 each. Patchwork for children from about eight to the early teens is in a polythene pack to make either a 16-inch square cushion or one section of a quilt for a new baby—no need for new kits for the other squares because you can use the same template with scraps of fabric from about the house, as long as you remember always to use the same weights of materials together. The diagram instructions are very clear and colours are basically red and navy, blue and pink, brown and gold, and blue and green—all floral.

Designed by a stained glass artist, these kits cost £3.70 including postage from Caroline Swash, 88 Woodwards Road, East Dulwich, London, SE22 (no callers please). Telephone 01-693 6574 for additional details if you have any queries. Building their own dolls' houses from rigid plastic panels will appeal to any child whether they end up as a garage or a small block of flats. One set makes a four-bedroomed building complete with ceilings and floors, rather expensive but very durable at £12.99 from Galt Toys, 30/31 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1.

The comprehensive mail order catalogue includes the sensible, tough constructional toys and some stocking fillers. They also sell the practical, tough Hangabag shown here at £6.50, an octagon of lightweight, loosely-woven plasticized fabric that holds a host of toys and hangs on white nylon rope handles. Postage is £1.40 and it is only in a dachshund. Lestrass transfers, rubbed onto produce Paddington, birds, wildlife and action scenes like the Sun, French canyons, the fall of Pompeii and a cavalry charge or an ambush are terrific for all ages.

are cheap and available from most toyshops and nearly all larger W. H. Smith, John Menzies and other stationery shops. If stuck for a local stockist, inquire for one from Lestrass Consumer Products, Ashford, Kent TN23 2JU. I feel I need hardly mention the Airfix kits, always wonderful value and ready to be made into trains, boats and planes or cars but with a whole lot of less familiar, scenes like command posts and jungle headquarters. The complete catalogue is 35p from Haldane Place, Garroth Lane, London, SW18. Stockists from there too.



Drawing by Jennat Houston

Mattel's range of "Beans" dolls are charmingly quaint and somewhat old-fashioned, with modern faces. Look at this cute little smooth-faced blonde cuddling a separate baby doll which can be taken from her arms or laid to rest in them. The bendy legs and arms of mamma doll keep the little one safe. These dolls are available in a variety of sizes and they sell at about £4.99 at Hamleys, most stores, The Tree House, and a fair number of toyshops. Being like bean bags but well stuffed, they are virtually indestructible.

Then comes a genuinely handmade and home-machined doll which can take up to three weeks to be made, but the lady who does them has built up a large stock so we shall hope to improve on that considerably. Dresses are in basic blues, greens, reds, pinks and so forth but try asking for a special if you are prepared to wait. Styles are as in the drawing, with a short puffy over a petticoat and everything else tucked off. She is made of stockinette in the way that all old-fashioned and original rag dolls were made, and there are spare sets of clothes in different colours incorporating washable cottons and laces as shown here. The little lady costs £5 including postage and



Photograph by Trevor Sutton

packing while extra sets of clothes come to £2.60 each. About 20 inches tall. From the same lady comes a really delectable-looking rabbit head with a face and ears, but the face is hollow, with strong card frame, to hold cotton wool balls, tissues or even a light hairbrush and comb. All in pink, about six inches long, and embellished and lacy, this is an adorable bedside or dressing table ornament at only £1.75 including postage, etc.

Orders to Gillian Field, 12 Stoddley Crescent, New Barn, Longfield, Kent, but please do not try to telephone this collection and despatch address, as the telephone is rarely manned.

A reminder about Stockingfillas catalogue of party and small toys, free from Tennant House, Sutton/Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5NS.

Never try Christmas shopping for children without the Tridias catalogue, the place with the two exclamation marks of which the first should be upside down, but my typewriter rebels at that. Free to The Times readers from 8 Saville Row, Bath BA1 2QP, where personal shoppers are welcomed as they are at shops in Richmond, London's Monmouth Street, Dartington in Devon, and in a couple of French towns. The catalogue gets better every year, catering for older and younger children, packed with stocking fillers, original toys and useful ones like tough rope hoist and monkey swing at £5.50 to lift bikes and motorbikes to the roof for storage in small garages or merely to play underpaid firemen and rescue teams. The pedometer, wrist radio, masks, rucksacks, electric dice sets, puppets, magic things, practical jokes, writing books and safe, small indoor fireworks are, among the host of things to tempt you. All you Paddington nuts, there is a little flag-sprayed figure, 2 1/2 in tall, in his pyjamas for 40p. A bag of wooden beads is only 50p to give endless pleasure but lay in the yarn or strong thread in advance. The secret agent pen's invisible ink reappears only when rubbed over with the pen's tip, lovely for spies or amorous teenagers (give them a pen each, however, at 35p each or 50p for the pair). A Kojak wig is 70p, a signal torch red or green flashing is 55p and a magic brain calculator to train them for the electronic age is 50p. Trust me, this is a great little catalogue all round.

Curious Caterpillar, Halfacre Lane, Great Horwood, Herefordshire, is another catalogue of little things for trees and stockings, together with some of the bigger things like the original Robertson's marmalade golly with Golden Shred printed on its tucker and costing £1.35. Wooden rattles, flower fairy mirrors, indoor plants for dolls' houses, tiny telephones or dustpan and brush sets are all in the 50p and under category.

I have already written about The Tree House at 237 Kensington High Street, near the junction with Earls Court Road (London, W8, telephone 01-937 7497). There are no counters and everything is out to be touched or tried although that situation gets a trifle desperate nearer Christmas. This year they are mail ordering some of their lines, which include original imports from America. The bathtime packs, such as bathtime chemistry, bath crystals, bath finger paints and pink bubblegum bubble bath (rather highly perfumed) are in a range called Dirty Kids at prices from about £2.15 to £4.80 per pack though postage adds as much as 56p to some of them. You and they will love Pure Soap at 51p (plus 22p postage on two packs). Just a piece of soap smelling purty in a cylindrical container, it can be moulded into soap tablets of any shape. Paint your own T-shirt kits, build your own doll's house or model with the Das Kits. For stockings, but not by post, try magic pens in a set of five colours with a white pen that changes each to another colour, making 10 in all. Tiny wind-up engines, miniature jumping frogs, little swimming dolls in bikinis, and little travelling chessboards with peg-in men are all for low prices. Much recommended with plenty of parking space, near by.

When he scolded his arm—course outfit is easy to make, but can be bought for under £5. Her mother found the bought object, doubtful value, unlikely to take much wear and tear, so get out the sewing machine. She would have loved a furry basket bound with batteries operate walking, sniffing, barking and tail-wagging, but he is £12.45 alas. Alison and Angus Jeffery are four and two, and she is 12 years old. There are plenty of these about (see Ellisdon's catalogue at 30p from Dallas Road, Bradford for mail order), but the best shop I know is opposite Olympia's doors in the Hammermill Road; at Number 67 in the more precise London, W14 (01-802 1211). Barrum's Carnival has delighted me and my descendants over the years and those giant heads and boots in the window are redolent of pantomime. They do bunting, streamers, pinatas, crackers in bulk, yoshmaks, funny noses, extra condensation of value for money, rejecting much

that they would not like friends and parents to spend on. They have shoddiness and like strength and durability. They are not keen on noise and they like their own books and games, only the games they wrote about were mainly familiar like Monopoly, Lexion, draughts, chess, Mastermind and even Backgammon from the age of about 11 upwards. They love to do things and get a sense of achievement from craft and model kits, but consider most such gifts rather expensive. With that I generally agree and I do think they might be given more testing kits, probably made up by the giver out of various craft components which can be added beside separately at many craft shops, whether these be Reeves, the larger W. H. Smiths and Boots shops, or money, rejecting much

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specialist shops. They do not necessarily need everything cut out and ready for them so never underestimate them. It is worth repeating that their minds are everything the Equal Opportunities Commission would approve of, and there is precious little mental demarcation as to what is for boys and what for girls, so please do study the child to whom you give rather than put it into false compartments. In fact, far too many adults give the child what they think it ought to have rather than what it really wants. I remember, during my Ceylon childhood, choosing a waxen fairy doll from Gamage's catalogue one year.

In vain did my parents stress the unsuitability of wax dolls in hot climates. I had fallen in love and nothing else would do. Her entrancing features began to melt and fudge almost as soon as the insulating wrappings came off her, and the misshapen doll lived in the ice box for ever while the tinsel tarnished and the stiff white frills grew limp. I could play with her only by the ice box and look at her long the top of those huge blocks. But I loved her all the more despite—or because of—the tragedy of the whole situation, the partings, the dangers and her vulnerability and I wrote the perfect gift even if I did choose Meccano or Hornby next time.

Every one must be played with instantly so please, please check in advance on the age for barriers or anything else. And, toy-makers, while you do mark the necessary batteries on the outside of packs, please add anything else such as cardboard or wooden blocks or something so that it can be prepared in advance of the closed-shop days.

Do not give up the Christmas stockings. The little things on a stocking are usually a familiar one cut from mamma's lights, are very much a thrill of early morning and should be quite distinct from those around the tree. The stockings contain all the gifts is no substitute because the two distinct types of presents, opened before breakfast around the parental central bed, and then the later present giving are so important. As I have said before, try one treasure hunt, puzzle, scavenger hunt or something similar for older and young. The treasure at the end of the clues trail can be small but the game itself builds up a party feeling.

Make them drinks as finger food, pouring the fruit juices or Cokes into lugs or bowls and adding fruit or pieces of crystallized fruit and nuts to the "smoothie" so that it can be ladled or sipped through glasses to look lovely and provide spoons for the final eating up of the fruit deposits but do not hand round glasses with spoons sticking out of them if you value your carpet and your carpets or furniture.

Let the children help with anything possible, from laying the table to clearing it and make it all fun so do. They also love to help with decorations, making their own gifts around the tree. The more that everyone joins in, however old or young, the more togetherness there is. One lovely way to take in a child or elderly or lonely person for the season. Do not make him or her seem left out of anything or you might as well not have bothered.

If his very few gifts look mean compared with the number your own children or errandies are about to receive, hold back some of the later for a day or two later or give on Christmas Eve, having a small party family Christmas as well. For those who can afford the extra line of gifts, it would not be necessary to visit the lovely or expensive for a shorter period rather than risk that out-of-the-dinner danger. And visit the many old people who do not want to leave their homes but who do want to be with small gifts and some hot food in an insulated box—being careful to warn in advance or to find out that the old or she will be in. An old lady of 80 or 85 years lives near my grandchildren but she loves her Christmas Day. Easter and summer visits to her minute cottage.

Thank you for the letters, young readers all. My special message to the boy who addressed me merely as "Grammy" without my name but with the right address, and let me assure you that your letter reached me. And I do appreciate the messages sent by Zoe, 10 months, and the letters, Miss "D. Taylor", Doreen will have found her called on, I fear.

I have not mentioned the cuddly toys because, apart from the teddy bear which crops up pretty often, the is such a wide choice and a lot of the cuddlies are like the Muggins who have failed to win my own heart. But on this page and next I have tried to find a round-up of the things that children like, with the children's own choices.

The Beano-zuck price list is misprinted or 27p not 10p last week, when it is actually 47p.

051/121

